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November 8, 2000

Denver Art Museum Board Approves Return of Artwork

On November 8, 2000, the Denver Art Museum's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the return of a painting in its collection to Marianne Rosson, the daughter of a Holocaust victim.

The 17th century painting, *The Letter*, by a Dutch artist from the school of Gerard Terborch, was originally part of an art collection owned by Paul Hartog, a Jewish banker in Berlin. Hartog was forced to sell the painting in 1934. He later died in a concentration camp.

The painting came into the museum's collection as a donation in 1961. The museum accepted the work, unaware of its history until an inquiry was received from a family member who had seen the painting in a museum catalog.

The issue of art stolen during the Nazi/Holocaust era continues to be addressed by the Denver Art Museum. The Museum staff is researching works in the Museum's collection that may have changed hands between 1933 and 1953, to determine if any were confiscated, stolen, or coercively transferred.

The Board's approval has set in motion the process of returning *The Letter* as quickly as possible. Mrs. Rosson, the heir who now resides in Oregon, is a survivor of the Hartog family. While it is the policy of the Denver Art Museum not to disclose information about the shipping and delivery dates of any art, information about the painting and its owner may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Rosson's representative, Ary Frenkiel, at 800-938-8124.

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