



## Association of Art Museum Directors

120 East 56<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Suite 520  
New York, NY 10022  
Tel: 212.754-8084  
Fax: 212.754.8087

### THE ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS TO HOLD SYMPOSIUM “MUSEUMS AND THE COLLECTING OF ANTIQUITIES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”

Museum Directors, Archaeologists, Curators, and Scholars Will Address Key Questions on  
Museums and the Collecting of Antiquities Through a Series of Lectures and Panel Discussions  
To Be Held May 4, 2006 in New York City

New York, NY – April 4, 2006 – The Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) today announced that it will present an all-day symposium on art museums and the collecting of antiquities. The symposium will explore how museums have, and can responsibly continue to, protect, interpret and exhibit archaeological material and works of ancient art. Participants will include leading museum directors, archaeologists, and scholars of art history and law from leading institutions and research centers. The symposium, which will be held on May 4, 2006 at the Celeste Bartos Forum of The New York Public Library in New York, will be free and open to the public.

The purpose of the symposium, titled “Museums and the Collecting of Antiquities: Past, Present and Future,” is two-fold:

- To present an overview of the contribution art museums have made to the preservation and understanding of ancient art and culture through the collecting of antiquities, and how this mission can responsibly be continued; and
- To present panel discussions among relevant experts from within and outside the museum profession on the role of collecting in the continuing research on, and appreciation of, ancient art and culture. Panelists will include archaeologists, museum directors, curators, and other scholars.

Organized by James Cuno, Director, Art Institute of Chicago, and Timothy Potts, Director, Kimbell Art Museum, the symposium will comprise (in the morning) a series of presentations on the role of museums as stewards of the world’s shared artistic legacy, followed (in the afternoon) by two panel discussions of the issues raised. Some time will be assigned at the end of each panel for questions from the audience.

Among the symposium participants are:

- Kwame Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University
- Michael Barry, Lecturer in Persian, Princeton University and Curator of Islamic Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Malcolm Bell, Professor of Art History, University of Virginia

- Glen Bowersock, Professor of Ancient History, Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, NJ
- Michael Coe, Professor of Anthropology Emeritus and former Curator of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University
- James Cuno, Director, Art Institute of Chicago
- Philippe de Montebello, Director, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- David Freidel, University Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University
- Patty Gerstenblith, Professor of Law, DePaul University
- Richard Leventhal, Director, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- Neil MacGregor, Director, The British Museum
- John Henry Merryman, Nelson Bowman Sweitzer and Marie B. Sweitzer Professor of Law, Emeritus and Affiliated Professor in the Department of Art, Emeritus, Stanford University
- David Owen, Professor of Ancient Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Cornell University
- Jane Waldbaum, President, Archaeological Institute of America and Professor Emerita of Art History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- James Watt, Chairman, Department of Asian Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

This symposium is organized as part of AAMD members' commitment to serving as responsible stewards of our shared cultural heritage in a complex and changing environment. The symposium is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Samuel H. Kress Foundation has also provided a grant to support this program. Additional supporters include: the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute; El Museo del Barrio; Hammer Museum; Chrysler Museum of Art; Dallas Museum of Art; Georgia Museum of Art; Georgia O'Keeffe Museum; The Menil Collection; The Newark Museum; San Diego Museum of Art; Snite Museum of Art; Toledo Museum of Art, and The Walters Art Museum.

Since 1916, AAMD has addressed the needs of its members and other art museum professionals by providing them with information about important museum issues, as well as fostering public understanding of the field. In June 2004, AAMD published new guidelines to aid the Association's members in the process of collecting archaeological material and ancient art. In January 2006, AAMD developed additional guidelines for evaluating and engaging in loans of ancient works of art. Both sets of guidelines supplement AAMD's *Professional Practices in Art Museums*, first published in 1971 and updated and revised on an ongoing basis. Since 2002, AAMD has published an annual survey on the state of North America's art museums. AAMD has also developed a number of white papers on such topics as *Art Museums and the International Exchange of Cultural Artifacts*; *Art Museums, Private Collectors, and the Public Benefit*; and *Managing the Relationship Between Art Museums and Corporate Sponsors*.

The Association of Art Museum Directors, representing 170 art museum directors in the US, Canada and Mexico, aids its members in establishing and maintaining the highest professional standards for themselves and the museums they represent. It serves as a forum for the exchange of information and the exploration of ideas, and as a voice with which museum directors may express their joint perspectives and those of their institutions.

###

**Registration & Event Information – see next page**

**Registration & Event Information:**

Schedule and event registration available at: [www.aamd.org](http://www.aamd.org). All attendees must register in advance.

**Please do not contact the New York Public Library regarding tickets.**

Thursday, May 4, 2006  
9:00am – 5:00pm

The Celeste Bartos Forum  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
The New York Public Library  
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10018

\*Note: Please use 42nd Street Entrance before 10 a.m. on Thursdays\*

**Media Contacts:**

Mimi Gaudieri  
Association of Art Museum Directors  
212-754-8084  
[mgaudieri@aamd.org](mailto:mgaudieri@aamd.org)

Sascha Freudenheim / Elizabeth Chapman  
Resnicow Schroeder Associates  
212-671-5172 / 212-671-5159  
[sfreudenheim@resnicowschroeder.com](mailto:sfreudenheim@resnicowschroeder.com)  
[echapman@resnicowschroeder.com](mailto:echapman@resnicowschroeder.com)



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS**

The symposium is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.