



## Association of Art Museum Directors

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### **AAMD Statement Regarding Stieglitz Collection at Fisk University**

New York, NY, August 25, 2010—In response to the ruling on August 20, 2010 by Chancery Court Judge Ellen Hobbs Lyle regarding the Stieglitz collection of Fisk University, the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) released the following statement:

AAMD is gratified that the Chancery Court Judge has issued a ruling that recognizes the importance of the Stieglitz collection to Nashville and the South. In ruling that Fisk University may not pursue an agreement to sell a half share of the Stieglitz collection in ways that undermine the purpose of Ms. O’Keeffe’s gift, the Court affirms the importance of respecting donor intent.

AAMD believes that art collections owned by colleges and universities are an irreplaceable component of academic and community life and that they should not be treated as disposable financial assets. In support of the Court’s request that the Tennessee Attorney General propose alternative solutions for the management of the collection, several AAMD members have offered their help to identify options that will preserve the Stieglitz collection and uphold the standards of professional practice in the museum community.