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Afterlives

Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art

Book to Accompany an Exhibition Opening August 20 at The Jewish Museum, New York

During World War II, untold numbers of artworks and pieces of cultural property were stolen by Nazi forces. After the war, an estimated one million artworks and 2.5 million books were recovered. The artworks and cultural artifacts that survived have traumatic, layered histories.

Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art, to be published November 2 by Yale University Press in association with the Jewish Museum, traces the stories of these objects—paintings, drawings, and Judaica—their rescue in the aftermath of the war, and their afterlives in museums and private collections and in our cultural understanding. In examining how this history affects the way we view these works, scholars discuss the moral and aesthetic implications of maintaining the association between the works and their place within the brutality of the Holocaust—or, conversely, the implications of ignoring this history.

Afterlives offers a thought-provoking investigation of the unique ability of art and artifacts to bear witness to historical events. With rarely seen archival photographs and with contributions by the contemporary artists Maria Eichhorn, Hadar Gad, Dor Guez, and Lisa Oppenheim, this catalogue illuminates a difficult and still-urgent subject.

Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art
By Darsie Alexander and Sam Sackeroff; Essays by Julia Voss and Mark Wasiuta
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About the Authors

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Corresponding Exhibition

The book accompanies the exhibition **Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art**, on view at the Jewish Museum from **August 20, 2021 through January 9, 2022**.

This exhibition traces the fascinating timelines of individual objects as they passed through hands and sites before, during, and after World War II, bringing forward their myriad stories.

Afterlives will include works by major artists that were looted from Jewish collections during the war as well as treasured pieces of Judaica. Rare examples of Jewish ceremonial objects from destroyed synagogues; works by such renowned artists as Pierre Bonnard, Marc Chagall, Paul Cézanne, Gustave Courbet, and Henri Matisse, among others; and rarely seen archival photographs and documents will all be on view.

Exhibition details are at: <https://thejewishmuseum.org/exhibitions/afterlives-recovering-the-lost-stories-of-looted-art>

Please contact Anne Scher, ascher@thejm.org for more information about the exhibition.
www.thejewishmuseum.org

