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JDCRP
JEWISH
DIGITAL
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PROJECT



The JDCRP pilot project is co-funded by the European Union.

PRESS ADVISORY

JDCRP Appoints Prominent Global Experts to Its Board of Trustees and Executive Board

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The Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Foundation (JDCRP) is pleased to announce the appointment of four distinguished new members to the Foundation's Board of Trustees and Executive Board.

Rüdiger Mahlo, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and Claims Conference Representative for Germany, welcomed the appointments, noting that "With the additions of **Monica Dugot** (New York) and **Herbert Winter** (Zürich) as new Trustees, as well as **Deidre Berger** (Berlin) and **Dirk Langner** (Bonn/Madrid) as members of the Foundation's Executive Board, the Foundation's bodies are expanding greatly their international network."

Mahlo added that the new appointees "bring with them strong leadership experience and high levels of expertise in multiple fields, including provenance research, judiciary and financial administration, advocacy and education. Their efforts will enrich the JDCRP and bring additional vigor to the project."

The new appointees to the JDCRP Board of Trustees are:

- **Monica Dugot**, attorney with a focus on Nazi looted art claims, dispute resolution and restitution, member of the Board [of Trustees] of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future (EVZ)," formerly International Director of Restitution, Christie's, and Deputy Director of the New York State Banking Department's Holocaust Claims Processing Office. She remarked:

"I am thrilled to be able to contribute my knowledge and

experience to the JDCRP Foundation. Important strides have already been made in researching the vast displacement of still countless cultural objects during the Nazi-era and it will be a privilege to work together with such esteemed colleagues in striving to create a comprehensive record of Jewish art collections in Europe before the National Socialists rose to power and in finally establishing the central registry referenced in the Washington Principles 23 years ago."

- **Dr. Herbert Winter**, commercial law attorney in Zurich, formerly President of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities, member of the International Board of the Weizmann Institute, and former vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and of the European Jewish Congress. As an attorney, he played an important role uncovering Swiss bank accounts of Holocaust victims. Of his appointment he commented:
"I am privileged and honored to have been appointed as a member of the board [of Trustees] of your esteemed foundation. Having been heavily involved in the search of dormant bank accounts in Swiss banks in the late 90s and early 2000, and now as a member of the advisory board on provenance research of the Kunstmuseum Bern, I want to put all my energy into the search and inventorisation of all cultural objects looted by the Nazis and their allies."

They will join current Board of Trustees members Rüdiger Mahlo, chair, Jacqueline Scalisi, lawyer with the Commission for Art Recovery, and Dr. Zsuzsanna Toronyi, director of the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives.

The new appointees to the JDCRP Executive Board are:

- **Deidre Berger**, Chair of the Executive Board, long-time director of the American Jewish Committee Berlin Ramer Institute for German-Jewish Relations and founding director of the "Protecting Memory" Holocaust mass graves initiative in Ukraine. She is a member of the supervisory board of the International Youth Meeting Center in Oswiecim and advisory board member of the House of the Wannsee Conference. Berger remarked: "The vast dimensions of the attempted eradication by the Nazis

and their collaborators of all traces of Jewish life and culture in Europe has yet to be charted in its entirety. I feel privileged to lead the JDCRP's initiative to create a comprehensive database on these artworks and cultural objects, rescuing countless memories for younger generations and infusing new meaning in this largely untold story."

- **Dr. Dirk Langner**, member of the Executive Board, formerly director of the Direction for Legal Affairs and Consequences of World War II at the German Federal Finance Ministry and former Chairman of the Foundation "Remembrance Responsibility and the Future (EVZ)." Langner noted: ***"The large-scale plunder of Jewish-owned cultural objects by the Nazis and their collaborators was an essential part of the Holocaust. I am honored to help the JDCRP Foundation establish a central digital platform for documentation of this horrifying attempt to extinguish Jewish identity and culture in Europe. I believe the educational work of the JDCRP will enrich our understanding of a long neglected chapter of Holocaust history."***

They will join current Executive Board member Dr. Wesley Fisher, Director of the Research for the Claims Conference and for the World Jewish Restitution Organization, as well as representative of the Claims Conference to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

The Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Foundation was founded in 2019 by the Commission for Art Recovery and the Jewish Claims Conference as a central platform to document all cultural objects stolen by the Nazis and their collaborators from Jewish owners. The Berlin-based JDCRP Foundation is supervised by a board of trustees and managed by an executive board, with academic input from an international network of partner organizations. In December 2019 it was awarded a grant from

the European Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture for a pilot project using innovative digital technology to track the theft by Nazi officials of the collection of Adolphe Schloss, a French Jewish collector of Dutch master paintings. The project is supported by an international group of academic advisors and researchers.

Board of Trustees Chair Rüdiger Mahlo said “The exceptional expertise of our new board members in the areas of art restitution, Holocaust issues and Jewish life will greatly enhance the foundation and strengthen its presence as a central platform for issues of Nazi-looted cultural property. We are confident that their skilled leadership experiences will be a major contribution to the attainment of a comprehensive database of cultural objects plundered by the Nazis and their allies, expanding the objects' stories in a fitting and meaningful manner.”

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