The Audience:

Enlarging the Community of Users

With the help of advanced computer technology, JDCRP is creating a central digital archival platform on Nazi cultural plunder that assembles documents from dispersed archival sources. The user-friendly interface will facilitate use by experts and nonexperts alike, activating various user communities to assemble forgotten pieces of Jewish lives and the legacies they left behind. There are growing numbers of diverse audiences and online users interested in archival research on Nazi cultural plunder. A JDCRP exhibition in November 2024 on the fate of persecuted Brussels

collectors Hugo and Elisabeth Andriesse brought together numerous

DESCENDANTS AND HEIRS:

interested communities.

Seven family descendants from the U.S. and Belgium and a New York-based representative of the legal heirs attended the presentation of the Andriesse exhibition in Brussels at the Jewish Museum of Belgium. After 85 years of near oblivion, it was deeply gratifying for the descendants to experience how the JDCRP exhibition once again brought not only the theft to public attention, but also the lives and cultural legacies of their philanthropic ancestors.

The exhibition prompted New York lawyer Elisabeth Andriesse, with a family name similarity to the relative she met as a young girl, to donate a family photograph of Hugo Daniel Andriesse to the Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen, the central Belgium Holocaust Memorial Museum. [1]

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:

Belgium child Holocaust survivor Baroness Regina Suchowolski-Sluszny attended the exhibition, which she said was meaningful for all survivors, not only direct family descendants. [2]

"As long as you speak about the Holocaust victims,

they are still alive."

Baroness Regina Suchowolski-Sluszny

Elisabeth (Ella) Andriesse, family descendant, with the family photograph of Hugo Daniel Andriesse. Baroness Regina Suchowolski-Sluzny delivering her speech on the occasion of the exhibition opening at the Jewish Museum of Belgium. Cover of the book by Ina Boudier-Bakker, Armoede. First pages of the book with a handwritten inscription on the upper right by Elisabeth Andriesse. Students of the Free University of Brussels, Janaína Marson and Simon-Louis Leboeuf during the exhibition installation at the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels. Geert Sels delivering his speech during the exhibition opening at the Jewish Museum of Belgium. Ingrid Vander Veken delivering her speech during the exhibition opening at the Jewish Museum of Belgium.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:

The Federal Public Service Economy (Economy Ministry of Belgium) located a book in its archives from the personal library of Elisabeth Andriesse that it loaned for exhibition display. [3] [4]

STUDENTS:

University of Brussels cultural studies students Janaina Marson and Simon-Louis Leboeuf assisted with the installation of the exhibition. They discovered how archival research can recreate forgotten lives, learning as well about the widespread confiscation of Jewish-owned cultural property by Nazi occupation officials in Belgium. They summarized their experiences to share with other students. [5]

"Participating in the Andriesse exhibition was an enriching experience that deepened our understanding of the lasting impact of Nazi-era cultural spoliation. Exploring the history of the Andriesse Collection made us realize not only the personal tragedies behind looted art but also the ongoing efforts to restore historical justice. This exhibition highlighted for us the essential role of provenance research in preserving memory and ensuring that museums and cultural institutions take responsibility for the past."

Students Janaina Marson and Simon-Louis Leboeuf

MUSEUM CURATORS AND ART HISTORIANS:

The exhibition was shown at both the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels and the Kazerne Dossin Holocaust Memorial Museum in Mechelen, with the directors and curatorial staff of both institutions reaching out to bring the Andriesse story to their audiences. Concurrent to the exhibition in Mechelen, the Musée Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire in Brussels displayed a wall tapestry that was donated to the museum after the war by Elisabeth Andriesse.

HOLOCAUST EXPERTS AND HISTORIANS:

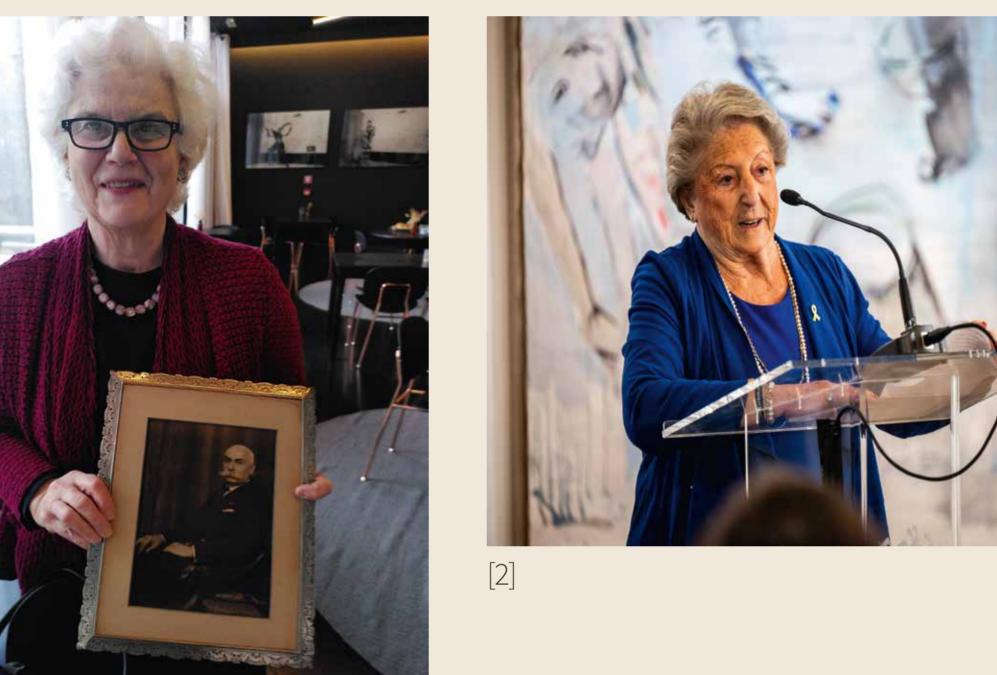
Geert Sels and Ingrid Vander Veken, both of whom wrote highly acclaimed books on Nazi looting in Belgium, contributed to the exhibition research and spoke at the exhibition opening at Kazerne Dossin. [6] [7]

GENERAL PUBLIC:

The well-attended openings of the Andriesse exhibition drew highly diverse audiences, including family descendants, diplomats, and government officials interested in learning more about the relatively unknown chapter of the theft and persecution of Belgian Jews during the Holocaust. [8] [9]

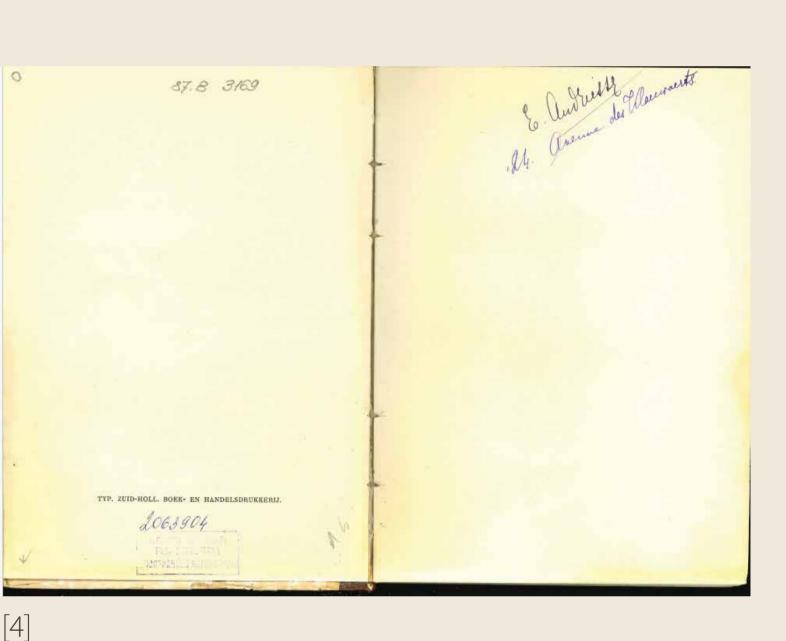
MEDIA:

As the first post-Holocaust exhibition in Belgium on the cultural plunder of Belgian Jews, the exhibition attracted considerable media attention. [10]

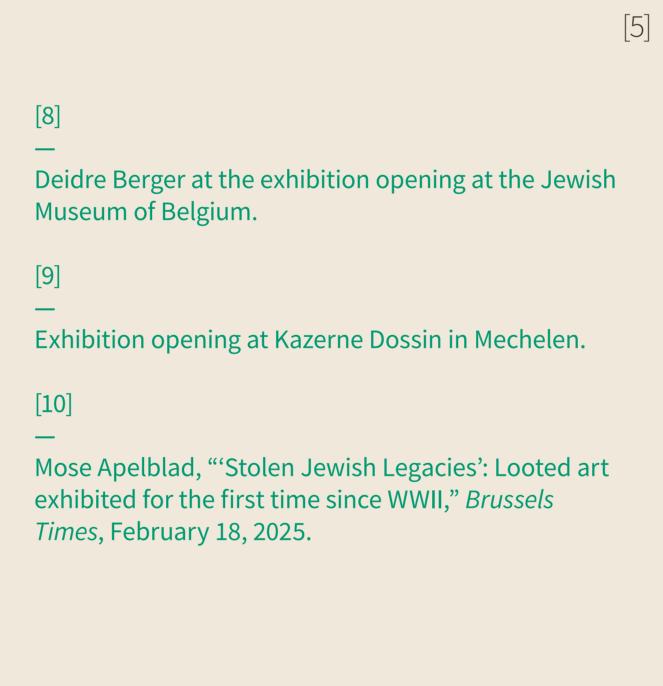


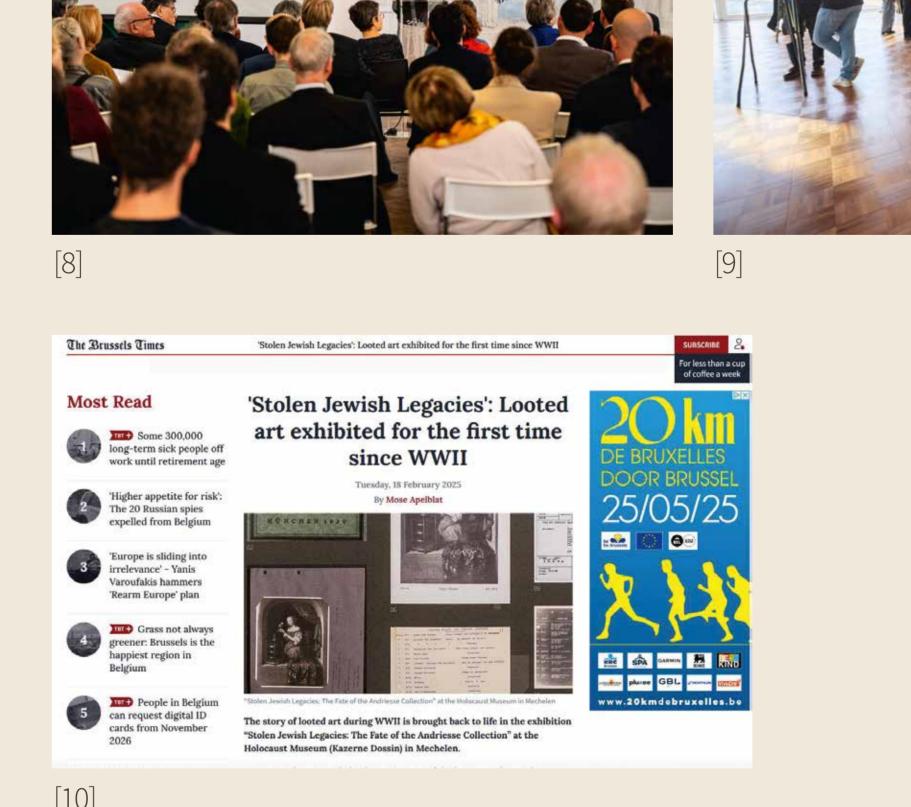












The Andriesse exhibition reconstructed the forgotten lives of the once socially prominent Belgian Jewish Andriesse family and mobilized national attention on Nazi looted art and its victims. The exhibition demonstrated how archival research can rescue the stories of forgotten victims of Nazi cultural plunder while exposing the meticulously orchestrated campaign to obliterate all traces of Jewish culture in Europe. The emerging JDCRP archival platform will help researchers fill in gaps in our knowledge of Nazi cultural plunder and offer educators and students new approaches to Holocaust education.



