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## **FIVE PAINTINGS FROM THE GOUDSTIKKER COLLECTION TO STAY IN THE NETHERLANDS**

### **The Netherlands purchases four works from the Goudstikker Collection and receives a fifth as a gift from the heirs.**

**NEW YORK** – Marei von Saher, the sole heir of the noted pre-War Dutch art dealer Jacques Goudstikker, announced today that she is donating one of the paintings that the Dutch government restituted to her in February 2006 to The Netherlands. She also announced that she has entered into an agreement with the Dutch government in which it acquired four important paintings from the restituted Goudstikker Collection for the Dutch State. (The works are listed and described in the English version of the Dutch Government's press release, which is attached.) In February 2006, the Dutch Government restituted to Ms. Von Saher 200 paintings looted by the Nazis from the collection of Jacques Goudstikker that had been in the Dutch national collection for decades.

Ms. Von Saher said, "I am so pleased that we have found a way to leave some important works from the Goudstikker Collection in the Netherlands. During our discussions with the Dutch State, I learned that the painting by Van der Helst was one of Prof. Dr. Rudi Ekkart's favorite pieces from the Goudstikker Collection. I decided that it would be a fitting gesture to donate it to the Dutch State in his honor, as Prof. Ekkart has devoted himself to helping so many families who lost property during the War. I am also delighted that we were able to conclude a fair agreement with the Dutch State regarding the other four works."

Prof. Ekkart, who is Director of the Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie (Netherlands Institute for Art History), has served as Chairman of the Ekkart Committee, which examined the issue of Nazi-looted art in the Dutch national collection and created restitution policy guidelines for the Dutch Government.

Jacques Goudstikker, his wife Desi and his only son Edo fled Holland on May 14, 1940, when Nazi troops invaded. He was forced to leave behind his business and 1,400 art works, but did take with him a black notebook that meticulously recorded over 1,000 of his pictures. The family boarded a boat ultimately bound for the United States but Jacques Goudstikker tragically died in an accident while onboard. Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering looted the Goudstikker gallery weeks later. After the War, many works from the Goudstikker collection were returned by the Allies to the Dutch authorities, but rather than retribute them to the family, as the Allies had anticipated, the Dutch authorities retained them, over the family's protests, and incorporated them into the Dutch national collection.

In 1998, Ms. Von Saher began a protracted legal battle to win back the pictures. In February 2006 the Dutch Government, based on the advice of its Restitutions Committee, resolved the largest outstanding claim to Nazi-looted art in the Netherlands by restituting 200 works to Ms. Von Saher.

Today she is continuing her extensive efforts to reclaim other looted Goudstikker artworks that have been located throughout Europe, the United States and elsewhere.

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