

MAX STERN ESTATE CHRONOLOGY

1987

- Max Stern dies, leaving the bulk of his estate to Concordia University, McGill University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his private art collection to select museums across Canada, the United States and Israel.

1997

- 3,000 books from Stern's library are ceded jointly to the university beneficiaries.

2000

- Decision taken to sell the Dominion Gallery business in Montreal and its entire inventory.
- Concordia given the mandate to manage the operations of the Dominion Gallery and disperse its inventory of 5,000 works.
- Stern archives donated to the National Gallery of Canada.

2001

- Creation of The Max & Iris Stern Museums Legacy Program to commemorate the couple at museums in North America and Israel. Concordia is placed in charge of its administration.

2002

- As a result of the exposure of Dominion Gallery works in London and New York, Estate is notified that works belonging to Galerie Stern, Düsseldorf, dating from the Nazi period, are also circulating on the art market.
- Max Stern Art Restitution Project created and Concordia mandated to administer it.
- New York State Banking Commission's Holocaust Claims Processing Office acknowledges Stern Estate's right to claim works.

- Missing works are added to the Art Loss Register in London and other registries in Germany and the United States.
- Philip Dombowsky, Cataloguer of the Max Stern Fonds at the National Gallery of Canada is mandated to prepare a first report on missing works.
- Willi Korte, lawyer, historian and looted art specialist is mandated to research the case. He is then engaged by the Estate as chief investigator on the Project.

2003

- Creation of The Max and Iris Stern Gallery on the Mount Scopus Campus of Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- Creation of the Max Stern Curator position at the Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery, Concordia University.
- Exhibition and Website: Highlights from the Max Stern Book Collection Bequest, McGill University and Concordia University.

2004

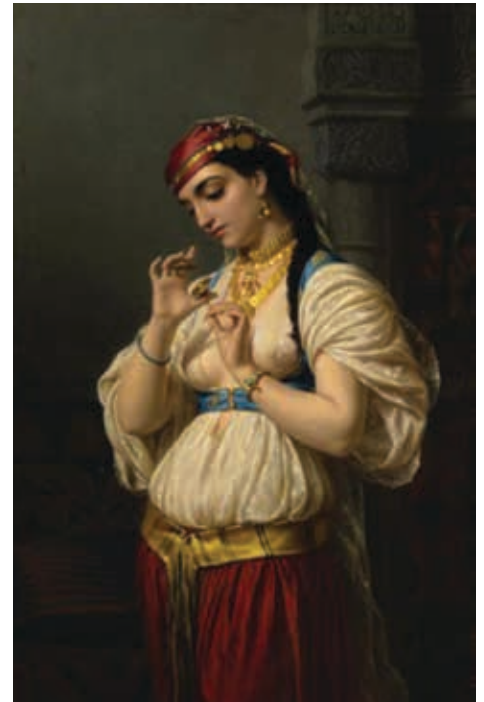
- Joint exhibitions celebrating Stern's contributions are organized at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery, Concordia University. The MMFA exhibition travels across Canada. Inauguration of the Max and Iris Stern Sculpture Garden at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
- Creation of the Iris Westerberg Stern Programming Fund at the Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery, Concordia University.
- Charles Hill, Curator of Canadian Art at the National Gallery of Canada, commissioned to prepare a biography on Max Stern.

2005

- New York State Banking Commission's Holocaust Claims Processing Office officially opens a claim for the Project.
- Girl from the Sabiner Mountains by F.X. Winterhalter (1805-1873) from Auktion 392 held at Lempertz in Cologne in 1937 is pulled from a local auction sale in Rhode Island.
- Provenance Research Program honours Max Stern at the Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida.
- Press conference at the Quebec Delegation in London: "Concordia Commits to Seeking Restitution of Max Stern's Art Holdings Lost During the Nazi Regime"
- Catherine MacKenzie of the Department of Art History, Concordia University proposes an exhibition and publication on the 1937 sale of Stern's paintings at Lempertz.

2006

- Despite good-faith discussions, Estate discovers that the Winterhalter painting is illicitly transported from the USA to Germany by Baroness Von Morsey Pickard.
- Executors file suit against Baroness Von Pickard in Rhode Island.
- First Annual Max and Iris Stern International Symposium at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal together with press conference: "Concordia Announces Key Findings in the Search for Max Stern's Art Holdings Lost During the Nazi Regime".
- Opening of "Auktion 392: Reclaiming the Galerie Stern, Düsseldorf" (with accompanying catalogue and website) at Faculty of Fine Arts Gallery, Concordia University.
- First artwork recovered by the Estate with the assistance of Sotheby's: Aimée, A Young Egyptian (1869) by Emile Lecomte-Vernet (1821-1900). Press conference at Concordia: "Concordia announces the return of an important French painting lost to Max Stern during the Nazi regime."
- Painting is placed on loan to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
- Press Release: "German Auction House to Proceed with Sale of Nazi-tainted art despite objections." After intense media scrutiny Van Ham Auction House in Cologne pulls two paintings: Market Scene in the Piazza Navona, Rome (1691) and Market Scene in the Piazza del Quirinale, Rome (1698) by Mathijs Naiveu (1647-1721). Paintings remain at Van Ham.



Emile C.H. Vernet-Lecomte (1821-1900)

2007

- Auktion 392 exhibit opens at Leo Baeck Institute in New York.
- Portrait of Jan Van Eversdyck by Nicolas Neufchatel (c.1527-1590) returned by the Jakober Foundation in Spain. Press Release: "Nazi-Looted Old Master Painting Returned to Stern Estate: One of many Stern Works Recycled in Recent Years Through German Auction Houses".
- Neufchatel is placed on permanent loan to the Jakober Foundation.
- Van Ham Auction House issues its own press release "Painting from Max Stern Auction Rediscovered" stating that it has also pulled Winter Landscape by Gustav Lange (1811-1887) from an upcoming sale. Despite their press release, painting is returned to their consignor.
- Estate begins building a comprehensive database of Stern works from 1935-1937.



Nicolas Neufchatel (c. 1527-1590)

- Baroness Von Pickard's Motion to dismiss the Winterhalter case is denied; The Court grants Estate a Preliminary Injunction enabling it to inspect the painting; Estate files a motion for Summary Judgment.
- Auktion 392 exhibit opens at Ben Uri Gallery (The London Jewish Museum of Art).
- "Extensive landscape with travelers on a track near a walled town with a castle and a church, a village beyond" by Jan de Vos I (1593-1649) returned with the assistance of Christie's in London.
- U.S. Federal Court judge Lisi rules in favour of Estate in Winterhalter case.



Jan de Vos I (1593-1649)

2008

- The Israel Museum Conference "Justice Matters: Restituting Holocaust-Era Art Artifacts" brings together speakers from Israel, Europe and North America. The Israel Museum Conference is sponsored by the Stern Estate.
- In coordination with the conference, Auktion 392 exhibit opens at Max and Iris Stern Gallery of Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- U.S. Court of Appeals upholds Judge Lisi's decision in Winterhalter case.
- "Flight into Egypt" by Jan Wellens de Cock (c1480 - 1527) returned in Berlin with the assistance of Christie's.



Franz Xaver Winterhalter (1805-1873)



Circle of Jan Wellens de Cock (c. 1480-1527)

2009

- Owing to the Court of Appeals decision, “Portrait of a Musician Holding Bagpipes” c.1632 by Netherlands School returned in New York with the assistance of US Department of Justice and Homeland Security.
- “St. Jerome” by Ludovico Carracci (1555-1619) returned in New York with the assistance of US Department of Justice and Homeland Security.
- Lempertz auction house reluctantly withdraws from sale painting by Alexander Adriaennsen. Despite requests for its restitution by the Stern Estate, Lempertz returns work to the consignor.
- More than 200 Stern works, including those forcibly auctioned at Lempertz in 1937, are registered by Interpol as stolen.



Northern Netherlandish 6 School
(17th century)



Lodovico Carracci (1555-1619)

2010

- The Stern Estate and Wiesbaden Museum work together to resolve the provenance of paintings. As a result of these efforts the Museum returns Pieter de Grebber painting to the heirs of Jakob and Rosa Oppenheimer. The Stern Estate waived its right to the claim once it was established that the Oppenheims had been the first Jewish owners to lose possession of it during the Nazi period.
- Upon recommendation of their Restitutions Committee, the government of the Netherlands returns the painting, “Allegory of Earth and Water” by Jan Brueghel the Younger.



Jan Brueghel the Younger (Brueghel II)
(1601-1678)

2011

- After further research into the provenance of Jan Steen’s Brawl at a Tavern, the Max Stern Estate determines that this painting owned by Dr. Stern in 1935 was not sold as the result of Nazi persecution.
- German casino restitutes “The Master’s of the Goldsmith Guild in Amsterdam in 1701” by Juriaen Pool II to the Estate. Ceremony takes place at Amsterdam Museum.



Juriaen Pool II (1665-1745)

2013

- The State of Baden-Württemberg requests that the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart return to the Estate, “Virgin and Child” said to be by fifteenth-century Renaissance painter, the Master of Flémalle. Ceremony takes place at the Canadian Embassy in Berlin, as part of the official handover of the chair from Belgium to Canada of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.
- Following repeated attempts with members of the German art trade over more than a decade, Van Ham Fine Art Auctions facilitates the return of a painting by Andreas Achenbach. Ceremony takes place at the Canadian Embassy in Berlin.



Master of Flémalle (1375-1444)



Andreas Achenbach (1815-1910)

2014

- Regional Capital Düsseldorf returns Self-Portrait of Wilhelm Schadow. Painting is placed on loan to the Stadtmuseum - Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf.
- Stadtmuseum - Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf announces platform for international scholarly collaboration leading to an exhibition on Galerie Stern slated for 2018.
- *The Masters of the Goldsmith Guild in Amsterdam in 1701* by Juriaen Pool II (1665-1745) is acquired by the Taxation & Customs Museum in Rotterdam and placed on permanent display.



Wilhelm Schadow (1788-1862)

2016

- Following an anonymous tip of the painting's slated sale, the German Lost Art Foundation – a government supported agency in Magdeburg – alerts representatives of the Stern Foundation who in turn contact the Düsseldorfer Auktionshaus.
- The company promptly returns the work. Ceremony takes place at the Stadtmuseum - Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf
- Stahl Auktionshaus in Hamburg facilitates return of "Landscape with Goats" by Willem Buytewech.
- Metz Auktionshaus in Heidelberg facilitates return of marine painting by Jan Porcellis.
- Both the Porcellis and Buytewech works are unveiled at a return ceremony at the Canadian Embassy in Berlin.
- The German Friends of Hebrew University Jerusalem announce that all future works restituted from German collections will qualify for tax certificates.



Wilhelm von Krafft (1815-1910)



Willem Buytewech the Younger (1625-1670)



Jan Porcellis (1584-1632)

2017

- FBI seizes work at 2015 Spring Masters Art Fair in NYC
- Return Ceremony at the Jewish Museum of Heritage, NYC



Jan Franse Verzijl (1599-1647)