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New database for Nazi looted art in Belgium

22 Aug 2019

On the initiative of the Belgian government, a database is to be set up, to publish all the works of art that were presumably stolen during the Nazi era.

108 objects from eleven Belgian museums contain not only paintings, but also sculptures, furniture and tapestries.

So far, the those museums have tried to publicise questionable objects on their own websites, in order to identify any legitimate owners and their heirs. Since this was usually unsuccessful, Budget Minister Sophie Wilmès has announced that this central database will go online this year.

In 1998, Belgium committed itself in the Washington Principles, along with 43 other countries, to return stolen art to their rightful owners.

Further information: www.tijd.be (BE)