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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES RETURN TO POLAND OF
TWO JULIAN FALAT PAINTINGS STOLEN BY THE NAZIS DURING
WORLD WAR II**

PREET BHARARA, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JAMES DINKINS, Executive Associate Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's ("ICE") Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), announced today the return to the Polish Government of two Julian Falat paintings, "Off to the Hunt" and "The Hunt" (the "Falat Paintings"), that were stolen from the Polish National Museum (the "Museum") in Warsaw, Poland, by the Nazis during World War II.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "No one can ever provide just compensation to the victims of the Nazis' atrocities, but it is very gratifying for our office to play a role in returning the art that they looted during World War II to its rightful owners. After 60 years, these national treasures will finally be returned to the Polish Government -- a repatriation that would not have been possible without their help."

Executive Associate Director for ICE HSI JAMES DINKINS stated: "We are deeply gratified to be able to return these cherished paintings that were taken from the people of Poland so long ago. Through our investigations into illicitly trafficked cultural property, we take every opportunity to track down objects stolen during World War II."

In August 1944, the German S.S. Obersturmbannfuhrer Benne von Arent took over the Museum and confiscated the most valuable items in its collection, including the Falat Paintings. Many of those treasures are still missing and have not been returned. In 2006, after learning that the Falat Paintings were

being offered for sale at two New York auction houses, the Polish Government enlisted the assistance of the United States Government to recover and repatriate the paintings. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York filed a civil forfeiture complaint on December 13, 2010, after ICE HSI conducted an investigation. The Falat Paintings were then seized by ICE HSI, and the U.S. District Court entered a judgment on August 3, 2011, forfeiting them to the United States.

The Falat Paintings will be returned to the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, later today at a repatriation ceremony at the Polish Consulate in New York City. Their return to the Government of Poland marks the fifth time that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, in conjunction with ICE HSI, has returned important historical and cultural property and art work stolen by the Nazis during World War II to its rightful owner.

Julian Falat was born in 1853 in Tuliglowy, Poland, and is well known for his hunting and landscape paintings. His "Off to the Hunt" painting was first publicly displayed at the Society for the Encouragement of Fine Arts (the "Society") in Warsaw, Poland, in November 1901. The painting was subsequently sold to a private individual, who later gifted it back to the Society in 1904. In December of 1939, the painting was transferred from the Society to the premises of the Museum, which was used by the Nazis as a German depository of Polish national treasures during World War II. The Museum was the last documented location of the "Off to the Hunt" painting. Sometime during War World II, the painting was removed by the Nazis from the Museum without its frame. It had been missing until 2006, when the Government of Poland discovered that it was being offered for sale at Christie's auction house in New York City.

The Falat painting entitled "The Hunt" was bequeathed on June 6, 1914, by its first owner, Ludwik Norblin, to the Society. During World War II, the painting was moved to the Museum, just as "Off to the Hunt" had been moved. "The Hunt" was stolen by the Nazis during World War II and remained missing until 2006 when the Polish Government learned that it too was being offered for sale at Doyle New York Auctioneers and in New York City.

MR. BHARARA praised the investigative work of ICE HSI in this matter, and its ongoing efforts to find and repatriate stolen and looted art and cultural property.

The case is being handled by the Office's Asset Forfeiture Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney KAN M. NAWADAY is in charge of the case.