



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

*The Silvio J. Mollo Building
One Saint Andrew's Plaza
New York, New York 10007*

December 15, 2023

Anjan Sahni
Claire Guehenno
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr
7 World Trade Center
250 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10007

Re: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Dear Mr. Sahni and Ms. Guehenno:

This agreement is between your client, the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the "Met"), and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (the "Office").

In September 2021, following the Office's indictment of Douglas Latchford, the Met contacted the Office about antiquities in its collection sourced from Cambodia and expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Office's investigation.

Based on the Office's investigation to date, including through information provided voluntarily by the Met as part of its cooperation with the Office's investigation, the Office is aware that the Met possesses certain antiquities which are traceable back to the Kingdom of Cambodia ("Cambodia") and which are believed to have Douglas Latchford in their provenance. Those antiquities are listed here and have also been demarcated in photographs attached as Exhibit A (the "Returnable Antiquities"):

- Lintel with Shiva on Nandi, accession number 1996.473
- Head of Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion, accession number 1998.322
- Head of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, accession number 1997.434.1
- Headless female deity, accession number 2003.592.1
- Ardhanarishvara, accession number 1993.387.4
- Face from a Male Deity, probably Shiva, accession number 1998.320a-f
- Standing Female Deity, accession number 2003.605

- Standing Eight-Armed Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion, accession number 2002.477
- The Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara Seated in Royal Ease, accession number 1992.336
- Head of Buddha, accession number 2005.512
- Standing Female Deity, probably Uma, accession number 1983.14
- Head of a Buddha, accession number 1983.551
- Four-Armed Avalokiteshvara (Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion), accession number 1999.262

As part of its ongoing cooperation with the Office's investigation, the Met has agreed to voluntarily relinquish the Returnable Antiquities so that they may be repatriated to Cambodia, as further described below.¹

The Met agrees to relinquish all claims, rights, title, and interests that the Met may have under applicable law with respect to the Returnable Antiquities. To that end, the Met agrees to execute a Notice of Abandonment covering the Returnable Antiquities at a later date. The Government agrees to facilitate the repatriation of the Returnable Antiquities to Cambodia. The Met will pay and make arrangements for the return of the Returnable Antiquities in consultation with the Office.

The Met also agrees to continue to cooperate with the Office in any matter relating to the Met's collection of antiquities from Cambodia.

This Office will not criminally prosecute, nor bring any civil claim, against the Met arising from the purchase, receipt, possession, sale, transfer, transmission, or transportation of the Returnable Antiquities. The Met also agrees to relinquish any civil claims against the Office that may be brought with respect to the receipt, possession, or transportation of the Returnable Antiquities.

It is further understood that this Agreement does not bind any federal, state or local prosecuting authority other than this Office. This Office will, however, bring the cooperation of the Met to the attention of other offices and foreign governments, including Cambodia, if requested by the Met. Moreover, this Office, if requested by the Met, will advise Cambodia of the Met's cooperation and make best efforts to have the Met's efforts to repatriate the Returnable Antiquities recognized by Cambodia.

With respect to this matter, this agreement is not to be construed as a legal or factual determination that the Met has violated any federal law and this agreement supersedes all prior, if

¹ On September 19, 2003, the Government and Cambodia entered into a memorandum of understanding, known as the "U.S.-Cambodia Cultural Property Agreement," whereby the Government has agreed to facilitate the repatriation of certain art to Cambodia.

any, understandings, promises and/or conditions between this Office and the Met. No additional promises, agreements, and conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this letter and none will be entered into unless in writing and signed by all parties.

Very truly yours,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United States Attorney

By: 

Shiva H. Logarajah
Assistant United States Attorney
(212) 637-2299

APPROVED:

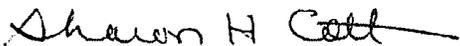


Tara La Morte
Chief

Noah Solowiejczyk
Deputy Chief

Money Laundering & Transnational Criminal
Enterprises Unit

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:



Sharon H. Cott, Esq.
Metropolitan Museum of Art

APPROVED:



Anjan Sahni, Esq./Claire Guehenno, Esq.
Attorneys for the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Exhibit A

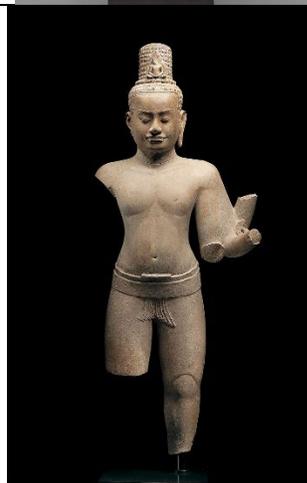
The Returnable Antiquities		
<p>Lintel with Shiva on Nandi, accession number 1996.473</p>		
<p>Head of Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion, accession number 1998.322</p>		
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Standing Female Deity,
accession number
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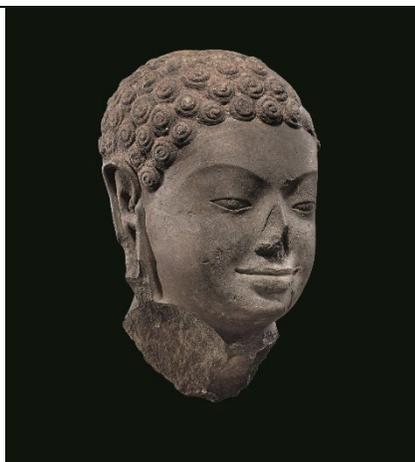
Standing Eight-Armed
Avalokiteshvara, the
Bodhisattva of Infinite
Compassion, accession
number 2002.477



The Bodhisattva
Avalokiteshvara Seated
in Royal Ease,
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Standing Female Deity,
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Four-Armed
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