



**PRESS RELEASE | 15 February 2024**

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## **PRESS CONFERENCE**

**The alarming future of the Art, Antiquity and Archaeology Market  
at the hands of a new « grotesque » European regulation.**

**Thursday 29 February at 9.30**

**The Pagoda of Paris - Maison de C.T. Loo**

48 Rue de Courcelles 75008 Paris

### **Participants :**

**Mathias Ary Jan** – Chairman of The Syndicat National des Antiquaires

**Christophe Hioco** (Paris) – Treasurer of The Syndicat National des Antiquaires and Moderator

**Ivan Macquisten** (London) - Writer, commentator, analyst, collector, and campaigner specialising in the international art market. Founder of ImacQ, focusing on political issues as they affect the international art market (combating money laundering and EU regulations)

**Maître Pierre Valentin** (London) – Founding Lawyer and Law Firm Director of Constantine Cannon, art market specialist, chairman of the board of directors - the World Monuments Fund Britain, founder of PAIAM (Professional Advisors to the International Art Market)

**Maître Yves Bernard Debie** (Brussels / Paris) - Lawyer specialising in art and cultural property law, legal counsel for Rocard and SNA, Director General of Parcours des Mondes

**Please confirm your attendance – RSVP**

**Muriel Marasti | Communication & Presse**

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**The new European Union Regulation (2019/880) concerning the introduction and import of cultural property: a crisis for the markets in Art, Antiquities and Archeology, and for private citizens**

In June 2025, a new European Union Regulation restricting the introduction and import of non-European cultural property comes into force. **It will have a dramatic and damaging impact on the Art, Antiquities and Archeology markets** (Arts of Asia, Africa and Oceania, North & South American...), **as well as on EU citizens' rights.**

**The Syndicat National des Antiquaires, in association with specialized legal counsel and experts, is acting now to alert the market, including all art dealers and stakeholders affected,** as well as private citizens, most notably in France, which is the worldwide hub of these markets. This new Regulation, which Great Britain chose not to apply after assessing its likely impact, will provide the UK with a distinct advantage over the European Union when it comes to the importation of non-European works of art. The result will include a weakened French market and damage to the private property rights of EU citizens.

This media conference, **the first public alert in France on this subject,** brings together multiple stakeholders : **members of the board of the SNA, concerned dealers, journalists and specialized lawyers.**

**Regulation (EU) 2019/880 of the European Parliament and Council passed into law on 17 April 2019.** Concerning the introduction and importation of cultural property into the EU, its objective was to prevent the illicit trade of cultural property that might finance of terrorism, as well as prevent illegally exported items from entering the EU. Although the Regulation specifically relates only to items that were created or originally discovered outside EU territory, it is likely to have a significant impact on a wider range of cultural goods.

**The European Commission's arguments for introducing the Regulation were based on evidence, including data, that has now been shown to be wrong.** The two studies it commissioned to demonstrate the risk of terrorism financing both concluded that no evidence of it could be found.

**Detailed analysis of that data, and of the Regulation itself, reveal the perilous consequences for the market of its enforcement,** as well as the serious repercussions for private collectors and the ordinary property rights of EU citizens.

These dangers remain even after extensive research has shown that the feared threat of terrorism financing used to justify the Regulation had no basis in fact.

**In consideration of all this, we must act now to ensure that any enforcement of the Regulation does not unduly damage the market or citizens' rights.**

**The Syndicat National des Antiquaires is taking the first step in raising the alarm and calls on all art market professionals and other stakeholders, as well as the EU's institutions, to work towards a positive outcome.**

