

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

Deliverable D1 EDS – Opening Event

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - Stichting Joods Historisch Museum (JCQ) 2 – Rijksmuseum (RMA)
PIC number:	940744995
Project name and acronym:	Looted Art and Judaica Project – LAJP

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP1 – D1		
Event name:	Opening Event		
Type:	Opening, awareness raising event		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	the Netherlands, Amsterdam		
Date(s):	May 30, 2024		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
	Female:	163	
	Male:	117	
	Non-binary:	2	
	From country 1 the Netherlands:	278	
	From country 2 Belgium:	1	
	From country 3 France:	1	
	From country 4 Austria:	2	
	Total number of participants:	282	From total number of countries: 4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
This event aimed at marking the opening of the project, together with various audiences, including policy makers, representatives of the Dutch museum sector, representatives of Jewish communities,			

and funding partners. Consisting of different activities, the event should contribute to awareness raising of the project at large and its objectives amongst various stakeholders of all consortium partners and also to strengthen relationships with Jewish communities in the Netherlands.

Preview Lunch Event

May 30, 12:00-13:30

This activity brought together representatives of Jewish communities in the Netherlands that have a longstanding relationship with the Jewish Cultural Quarter and took place at the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam. Emile Schrijver, general director of the Jewish Cultural Quarter, opened the activity with an introduction to the project and its objective of contributing to the remembrance of the Holocaust through researching, commemorating, and educating about, the crimes of expropriation and looting of art and Jewish ceremonial objects as part of the marginalization and dehumanization process of Jews under the Nazi regime. This was followed by a curatorial tour of the Judaica-focused gallery of the exhibition *Looted* by curator Julie-Marthe Cohen, wherein she focused on restitution as a means of historical justice.

Public Opening

May 30, 14:00-16:30

The public opening at the National Holocaust Museum brought together representatives of Jewish communities in the Netherlands and various relations of the Jewish Cultural Quarter.

The programme opened with a word of welcome by Emile Schrijver and Taco Dibbits, general director of the Rijksmuseum. The curators of the exhibition *Looted* gave a short introduction, wherein they promoted an empathic approach of restitution of looted art and Judaica. Mara Lagerweij, provenance researcher at the Rijksmuseum, spoke about the research for case studies dealing with looted art conducted for the project, and Julie-Marthe, curator at the Jewish Cultural Quarter, talked about the research for case studies on looted ceremonial objects (Judaica). This was followed by a short lecture by Edmund de Waal, artist, researcher and writer known from his book *The Hare With the Amber Eyes*. De Waal focused on his own family history in relation to looted art and restitution, while exploring the emotional impact of objects on memory.

A first edition of the publication *Dispossessed* was handed out to Lotte Terwel, representative of the City of Amsterdam, who then addressed the importance of continuously commemorating Jewish life and culture for the Amsterdam municipality. Afterwards, participants were invited to visit the museum galleries of the National Holocaust Museum and the Jewish Museum, in particular the exhibition galleries of *Looted* together with the exhibition curators.

Stakeholder's Opening

May 30, 17:00-19:30

The Stakeholders Opening brought together officials on various governmental levels, including policy makers in the field of cultural heritage and in particular those working with looted art and restitution, as well as funding partners, project partners, representatives from the Dutch museum sector, and representatives from the Jewish communities.

The programme opened with a word of welcome by Emile Schrijver, general director of the Jewish Cultural Quarter, and Taco Dibbits, general director of the Rijksmuseum, the curators of the exhibition *Looted* gave a short introduction. Mara Lagerweij, provenance researcher at the Rijksmuseum, spoke of the research for case studies dealing with looted art conducted for the project, and Julie-Marthe, curator at the Jewish Cultural Quarter, talked about the research for case studies on looted ceremonial objects (Judaica). This was followed by a short lecture by Edmund de Waal, artist, researcher and writer known from his book *The Hare With the Amber Eyes*. De Waal focused on his own family history in relation to looted art and restitution, while exploring the emotional impact of objects on memory.

During the reception, participants were invited to visit the museum galleries of the National Holocaust Museum and the Jewish Museum, in particular the exhibition galleries of *Looted* together with the exhibition curators.

The opening event brought together 282 participants, plus a number of participants from countries that do not participate in the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (1x Monaco, 1x Switzerland, 2x UK, 6x USA). Furthermore, an estimated number of 75 undocumented participants joined the activities also joined the activities, who are not included in the data listed in this report.