

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

### Deliverable D12 EDS – JCQ Today

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

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP10 - D12		
Event name:	JCQ Today		
Type:	lectures		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	The Netherlands, Amsterdam		
Date(s):	September 13 and October 23, 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://jck.nl/en/looted-art-judaica-project">https://jck.nl/en/looted-art-judaica-project</a>		
Participants			
Female:	83		
Male:	46		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 The Netherlands:	129		
Total number of participants:	129	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The event JCQ Today consisted of two public activities that aimed at making academic knowledge accessible to the wider public and at deepening and broadening exhibition content by placing the topic of museums and looted art &amp; Judaica in a broader and contemporary context. The activities were organized and facilitated by the Jewish Cultural Quarter and took place in the auditorium of the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam.</p> <p><i>Woman in Gold – September 13, 2024</i></p> <p>In her lecture, Dr Evelien Campfens, explored the complexity of restitution on the basis of film fragments from the movie <i>Woman in Gold</i> (2015). Why is it so difficult to reconstitute art? What has changed over the last 25 years? Campfens is an expert in the field on international cultural heritage</p>			

law at the intersection of public and private law and is a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam (NL).

The Hollywood movie *Woman in Gold* premiered, with actors Hellen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds as Maria Altmann and her lawyer Randol Schoenberg. Altmann was a Jewish woman who before the war lived with her family in Austria and after the 'Anschluss' had to flee from Nazi-Germany. The family emigrated to the US, but had to leave its property behind, including paintings by Gustav Klimt. These paintings were confiscated by the Nazi's and ended up in the museum collection of the Belvedere in Vienna. The movie follows Altmann's claim for restitution and lawsuit.

This activity at the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam was attended by 82 participants, of which 50 female and 42 male participants.

#### *Bewariërs – October 23, 2024*

During the Second World War many Jews entrusted their possessions to non-Jewish friends, acquaintances, neighbors and colleagues. Referring to the Dutch verb "bewaren" (safekeeping) and the noun 'arier' (Arian), Jewish survivors called these keepers "bewariërs". It did not necessarily concern fine art and Judaica objects, but mostly everyday objects, such as cutlery, tableware and – cloths, as well as more personal items such as photo albums and jewelry. The Jewish owners hoped to retrieve their possessions after the war. The fact that most of the 107,000 deported Jews did not return meant that many items were left behind at the keepers, who sometimes cherished them, but sometimes threw them away. For Jews that survived, it often proved difficult to retrieve their possessions. The documentary *Bewariërs* follows three stories about the impact of all this on those involved.

After the screening of the documentary, Lisa de Goffau, Curator of Collections at the Jewish Cultural Quarter, interviewed documentary maker Judith van Vliet (NL) about how the documentary explores the impact of this history on different generations of Jewish survivors and non-Jewish keepers, up until today. For Jewish museums, these objects can be challenging. On the one hand, these everyday objects are very valuable items through which Jews murdered in the Holocaust can be remembered. On the other hand, the Jewish Cultural Quarter highly values restituting these objects to surviving relatives. Therefore, the museum encourages present generation of keepers to actively research family connections themselves.

De Goffau also spoke with second generation 'bewariër' Wim de Haan (NL), which story is part of the documentary. De Haan's father was entrusted the violin of his good friend Bram Rodrigues, who eventually was murdered in Auschwitz at the age of eighteen. After the war, his father cherished the object as a relic that reminded him of his childhood friend. De Haan started searching for relatives of Rodrigues after his father passed away. He came into contact with a cousin, David Groen, who lives in the US. Groen and De Haan arranged an official transfer of the violin in Amsterdam. Since then, the instrument has been played again during gatherings in synagogues.

This activity at the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam was attended by 47 participants, of which 33 female and 14 male participants.