

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

Deliverable D5 EDS – Book Presentation

PROJECT	
Participant:	2 – STICHTING HET RIJKSMUSEUM (RMA) 1 - Stichting Joods Historisch Museum (JCQ)
PIC number:	972514435
Project name and acronym:	Looted Art and Judaica Project - LAJP

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP3 - D5		
Event name:	Book Presentation		
Type:	presentation		
In situ/online:	In situ		
Location:	The Netherlands, Amsterdam		
Date(s):	September 3, 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	N.A.		
Participants			
Female:	63		
Male:	41		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [The Netherlands]:	104		
Total number of participants:	104	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>This event aimed at officially presenting the publication <i>Dispossessed</i> to an audience of stakeholders. <i>Dispossessed</i> is an illustrated and annotated book that was issued in two editions: an English and a Dutch version (<i>Beroofd</i>). It encompasses eight case studies with personal stories on looted art and Judaica written by researchers Eelke Muller, Marty Bax, Ruth Peeters, Mara Lagerweij, Anna-Carolin Augustin and Julie-Marthe Cohen, as well as a chapter on shifting attitudes towards restitution policy and the current state of affairs, focusing on the Netherlands in an international context, by Emile Schrijver. The final chapter is dedicated to the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and the rescue of Jewish cultural assets after WW2.</p> <p>The stories of <i>Dispossessed</i> enable readers to empathize with the original owners of the objects in question and their suffering because of being dispossessed under the Nazi regime. This book is also about the battle that survivors and descendants of murdered Jews have had to wage in order to</p>			

recover their possessions. Their stories demonstrate that the restitution of looted Jewish property to descendants, who have inherited a portion of the suffering, is a form of historical justice that is still relevant today. This may cultivate a greater understanding of present-day claims by 2nd or later generations.

The book presentation was organized by the Rijksmuseum and took place on September 3 (17:30-21:00). The public consisted of different stakeholders of RMA, including the museum's circle of patrons, an audience that within the regular context of RMA events usually does not work with WW2 related themes. To ensure a strong contextualization of the book presentation, the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam was chosen as location.

The evening programme consisted of two rounds, which enabled a close exchange between audience and authors. Each group was welcomed by authors and exhibition curators Mara Lagerweij and Julie-Marthe Cohen, who delivered a 45-minute session for each group. Lagerweij and Cohen focused on the personal stories of selected case studies from *Dispossessed*. This also included the design process of the publication together with designers Irma Boom and Frederik Pesch, who were responsible for materializing the concept of loss, recuperation and restitution 'in paper' through book design. After the two presentation rounds, participants were invited to visit the section dedicated to looted art of the exhibition *Looted* at the National Holocaust Museum.

Furthermore, the publication was furthermore promoted amongst the international provenance research eco-system during the international symposium *Looted* on September 9-10 at the Rijksmuseum (see D6 EDS for WP4).