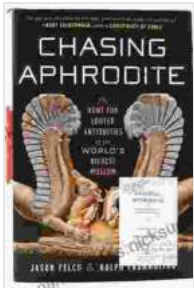


# The Hunt for Looted Antiquities at the World's Richest Museum



## Chasing Aphrodite: The Hunt for Looted Antiquities at the World's Richest Museum by Jason Felch

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2644 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 397 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City is one of the most prestigious and well-respected museums in the world. Its collection of over two million objects spans across cultures and time periods, making it one of the most comprehensive and diverse collections in the world.

However, the museum has recently come under fire for its alleged involvement in the illicit trade of looted antiquities. In 2020, a report by the Association for Research into Crimes Against Art (ARCA) accused the museum of acquiring numerous looted objects from Cambodia, Thailand, and other countries. The report alleged that the museum had failed to conduct proper due diligence on the provenance of these objects and had turned a blind eye to evidence that they had been illegally excavated and exported.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has denied these allegations, stating that it has a strict policy against acquiring looted objects and that it conducts thorough provenance research on all of its acquisitions. However, the ARCA report has raised serious questions about the museum's practices and has led to calls for greater transparency and accountability in the art world.

The illicit trade in looted antiquities is a major problem that threatens the cultural heritage of the world. Looted objects are often removed from their original context, which can make it difficult to understand their history and significance. The trade also undermines the efforts of archaeologists and other experts to protect cultural heritage sites.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is not the only museum that has been accused of acquiring looted antiquities. In recent years, several other museums around the world have been embroiled in similar controversies. This suggests that the illicit trade in looted antiquities is a widespread problem that is not limited to any one institution or country.

There are a number of things that can be done to address the illicit trade in looted antiquities. One important step is to raise awareness of the problem and to educate the public about the importance of cultural heritage. It is also important to strengthen international laws and regulations that protect cultural heritage sites and to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute trafficking in looted antiquities.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a unique opportunity to play a leading role in the fight against the illicit trade in looted antiquities. As one of the most prestigious museums in the world, it has the resources and the

expertise to conduct thorough provenance research and to establish best practices for the acquisition of antiquities. By doing so, the Metropolitan Museum of Art can help to protect the cultural heritage of the world and to ensure that the museum's collection is free from looted objects.

**Here are some specific examples of looted antiquities that have been acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art:**

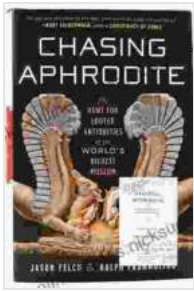
- A 12th-century Cambodian statue of the deity Harihara, which was looted from a temple in Koh Ker in the early 1970s.
- A 15th-century Thai Buddha head, which was looted from a temple in Ayutthaya in the early 1990s.
- A 2nd-century Roman marble statue of a nude youth, which was looted from a villa in Italy in the early 1980s.

**These are just a few examples of the many looted antiquities that have been acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.**

The illicit trade in looted antiquities is a serious problem that threatens the cultural heritage of the world. It is important to raise awareness of the problem and to educate the public about the importance of cultural heritage. It is also important to strengthen international laws and regulations that protect cultural heritage sites and to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute trafficking in looted antiquities.

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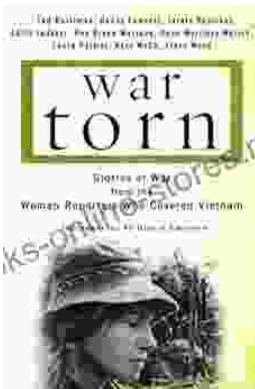
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