Unabhängige Kommission SKKG

Independent Commission of the Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte
for Clarifying Claims Resulting from Nazi Persecution

November 11, 2026

Press Release

The Independent Commission SKKG for the clarification of Nazi persecution-related claims has opened its fifth procedure. Its focus is the sculpture "Heiliger Johannes", attributed to the workshop of Tilman Riemenschneider.

At its meeting on October 28, 2026, the Independent Commission SKKG opened proceedings concerning a sculpture attributed to the workshop of Tilman Riemenschneider that is owned by the Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte (SKKG), and catalogued under the title "Heiliger Johannes", 1510–1520. The work has been part of the SKKG collection since 1993.

- The proceedings are based on the research of the SKKG Provenance Research team and are carried out in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Independent Commission SKKG dated April 24, 2023 (updated: April 15, 2024).
- In spring 2023, the SKKG's board of trustees appointed the Independent Commission SKKG. The Commission is tasked with clarifying whether any of the foundation's cultural property was dispossessed between 1933 and 1945 due to Nazi persecution and whether any related claims exist on the part of the legal successors of the former owners. Where applicable, the Commission shall develop a just and fair solution. The SKKG is obliged to recognize the decisions of the Commission as binding and to implement them.
- The Commission always maintains its independence and impartiality. It is guided primarily by the Washington Conference Principles (1998), Best Practices for Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art (2024), the Terezín Declaration (2009), the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums (revised 2026 edition), and the Principles of the Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte (SKKG) in dealing with the loss of cultural goods due to Nazi persecution of January 10, 2023.

The decisions of the Independent Commission SKKG are published once the proceedings have been concluded. In view of its obligation to maintain confidentiality during ongoing proceedings, the Commission refrains from commenting on the matter.

For more information, please contact
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Attachment: photo of the work

Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte, Winterthur, Inventory Number 48118: workshop of Tilman Riemenschneider (attr.), “Heiliger Johannes”, 1510–1520, plastic art, sculpture, 138 × 43 × 25 cm. Photo: SKKG 2022.

