

Mid-Manhattan Library
presents

The Politics of International Art Theft



an illustrated lecture
by

Jane K. Cleland

Wednesday, August 18th, 2010

6:30 p.m. on the 6th floor



New York
Public
Library

Mid-Manhattan Library
40th Street and 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10016
212-340-0837

Organized, systematic government-sponsored or sanctioned art theft isn't a modern phenomenon, and one of the most diabolical tools in a government's arsenal is its ability to create laws of convenience. This visual presentation examines the obstructionist behavior of governments and institutions from ancient times to the modern day—and how journalists and detectives have overcome the hurdles to recover stolen art. You'll hear about:



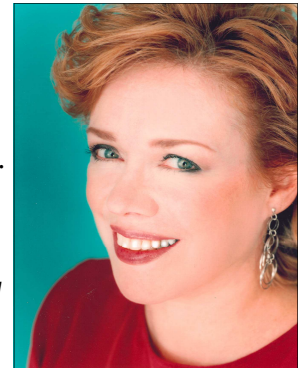
Houses at Unterach on the Attersee by Gustav Klimt

- Why art gets stolen and how politics figures into the situation.
- Why Greece thinks they should get the Elgin Marbles back, and the legal arguments England is using to keep them.
- The Vatican's efforts to recover *The Concert* by Vermeer and Rembrandt's only seascape, *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum in Boston.
- A Limoges enamel casket made to hold the relics of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, now in British police custody, after being removed from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.
- The 43 antique Khmer sculptures seized by Thai customs agents.
- How a Holocaust survivor took on the Austrian government and won the return of art that had been stolen by the Nazis.
- An innovative idea proposed by a Harvard professor and a MIT grad student that they say will diminish the market for stolen art and artifacts.

Opposite: Elgin Marbles

About the presenter:

Jane K. Cleland's multiple award-nominated and Independent Mystery Bookseller Association best selling Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series [Minotaur Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Publishing Group] has been reviewed as an *Antiques Roadshow* for mystery fans. "Josie" stories have also appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. She chairs the Wolfe Pack's literary awards, which include the Nero Award and the Black Orchid Novella Award, granted in partnership with *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. www.nerowolfe.org Ms. Cleland also chairs the Mystery Writers of America/New York Chapter Library Outreach Committee. She is a past chapter president and current board member of the Mystery Writers of America/New York Chapter. Ms. Cleland also teaches college courses and multiple writing workshops, including one called "Under the Writer's Veil" at M.I.T.'s spectacular Endicott House. www.mitendicottouse.org Website: www.janeclceland.net.



Elevators access the 6th floor after 6 p.m.
All programs are FREE and subject to
last minute change or cancellation.