

ARCA

Introductory Summary

ARCA (Association for Research into Crimes against Art) is the first think tank/consultancy group on contemporary issues in art crime. This non-profit organization will study issues in art crime, and work as consultants on art protection and recovery cases brought to them by international police, governments, museums, places of worship, and other public institutions.

Based in Rome, ARCA will employ full-time agents from a variety of backgrounds, from policing to art history to criminology and more. Their goal is to use research and analysis techniques to examine the phenomenon of art crime through history and across national borders, with an eye towards informing contemporary art crime prevention and solution. Such a study has never been undertaken.

Goals

In addition to providing its free-of-charge consultancy service, ARCA proposes to fulfill the following goals, in its first three years:

- 1) Development of **new art protection technologies**. ARCA will determine cost-effective ways to protect art, with a particular focus on church protection, as art in churches is least well-defended and a far higher risk target than art in private collections or museums.
- 2) Accumulation of a dossier containing empirical evidence, accounts, and statistics which **illustrate how art crime funds international terrorism**. This is a known fact, but the evidence to support it has yet to be accumulated in one dossier, to study and determine how best to take action, to be presented to international governments and counter-terrorism organizations.
- 3) **Increase popular awareness** of the severity of international art crime, through academic and popular non-fiction, fiction, and television. Two television series on art crime are currently in development, one drama and one documentary, both featuring ARCA director Noah Charney. Charney's novel, *The Art Thief*, was released internationally in the Fall of 2007 by Atria Press, and will increase awareness and knowledge of art crime, through the medium of fiction.
- 4) Charney is also writing a **non-fiction history of art crime** for a leading academic press which will provide the first proper survey of art crime through history, introducing it as a field of study, and highlighting how the study aides contemporary art policing and protecting.
- 5) ARCA is **compiling and charting empirical data of every art crime over the last five years**, as well as a major survey of art crimes dating back to 1876. The absence of this data set has been the primary impediment to the academic study of art crime. This data will be made available to the academic public for analysis, to encourage the criminological study of art crime.
- 6) In conjunction with art police in the US, UK, and Italy, organize **exhibitions displaying newly recovered works of stolen art**, explaining their theft and recovery. These exhibitions would end with a "virtual museum" of objects still missing, to disseminate information and awareness. Scotland Yard has achieved great success along this line, with their "Fakes & Forgeries" exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum, in London.
- 7) Conduct a **study of which artworks have been the objects of successful and attempted vandalism**. Studies suggest that art attacked by vandals tends to fall into a specific, predictable type. This information will maximize the efficiency of art protection.
- 8) ARCA will be available as a **free-of-charge consulting service** to police and public collections. For art crime situations for which research and academic analysis may be useful, ARCA's consultants will be available to provide counsel and to travel to advise on art protection and recovery.
- 9) ARCA will **provide a bridge between academics and police, and between police departments of different countries**. International police have not worked frequently in conjunction, sharing information to maximize their efficacy against an

inherently international crime type. ARCA will help bring together art police, as well as academics whose research may be of use to contemporary investigations.

10) **Found and expand the field of art crime studies.** To do so ARCA is **editing the first book of formal academic essays on art crime**, with contributions by international scholars, edited by director Noah Charney. We hope to attract as many scholars as possible to study this barren field, which is in great need of further study.

11) **Establishment of an international Masters program**, in collaboration with EuroCrime and a consortium of universities, which will be the first academic program in the new field of Art Crime Studies. Operations are scheduled to begin in 2009, with a probable base for the program at Amelia, Italy.

Trustees

The following prominent professionals are Trustees of ARCA:

Robert K. Wittman, Founding Director, FBI Art Squad

Col. Giovanni Pastore, Director, Carabinieri Division for the Protection of Cultural Heritage

Vernon Rapley, Director, Scotland Yard Arts & Antiques Squad

Robert Goldman, former Chief US prosecuting attorney for FBI art crime cases

Dennis Ahern, Security Director, Tate Modern Museum, London

Danielle Carrabino, The Courtauld Institute, Harvard University

Richard Ellis, former director, Scotland Yard Arts & Antiques Squad, now private art detective

Silvia Ciotti Galetti, Criminological Analyst, ISPRI, Florence, Italy

Bojan Dobovšek, Professor of Criminology, University of Maribor, Slovenia

Matjaž Jager, Director of Institute for Criminology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Robert Wittman, Giovanni Pastore, and Vernon Rapley will also act as part-time consultants for ARCA, when operations begin, in 2008.

Funding

ARCA seeks funding to support their non-profit activities. ARCA will never charge for their services, and relies on charitable donations for funding.

ARCA seeks funding to function as an independent non-profit organization for an initial three-year period, during which time all of the aforementioned projects will be undertaken and services provided, free of charge to all involved. The three-year period will begin when funding is received, with an estimated commencement in the Fall of 2008. The long-term funding goal would allow ARCA to function indefinitely at full capacity, as well as to open offices in other world cities, with planned locations in Shanghai and London. A complete budget break-down is available. We have received funding to cover start-up costs, and now seek any further amount possible to reach this initial goal, in order to fund individual aforementioned projects.

ARCA is a registered non-profit corporation in the United States, making all donations tax-deductable. ARCA's charitable status is recognized by IRS Tax ID: EIN 26-1116988. Registrations will follow in the UK and in Italy.

ARCA represents a high-profile project that has already received media attention. Articles on ARCA's founding director, Noah Charney, have been featured in such international publications as *The New York Times Magazine* (US), *Mladina* (Slovenia), *Ventiquattro* (Italy), *Fine Arts Registry* (UK), *24 Hours Toronto* (Canada), *Vogue* (Spain), *The Bund Pictorial* (China), on National Public Radio and ITV and CNBC television, among many others. The popular and media appeal of art crime ensures that ARCA will maintain high visibility. Support of ARCA provides a prestigious opportunity for its funding bodies to announce their strong stance against art crime.

For more information, please visit www.artcrime.info or email director.arca@gmail.com