

# [PDF] Chasing Aphrodite: The Hunt For Looted Antiquities At The World's Richest Museum

Jason Felch, Ralph Frammolino - pdf download free book

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#### Books Details:

Title: Chasing Aphrodite: The Hunt f

Author: Jason Felch, Ralph Frammolino

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#### Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** Starred Review. In an authoritative account, two reporters who led a Los Angeles Times investigation, reveal the details of the Getty Museum's illicit purchases, from smugglers and fences, of looted Greek and Roman antiquities. In 2005, the Italians indicted former Getty curator Marion True for trafficking in looted antiquities, and by 2007, after protracted negotiations, the Getty agreed to return 40 of 46 artifacts demanded by the Italian government; Italy in turn agreed to loan the Getty comparable objects. One of the major pieces lost by the Getty was an Aphrodite statue purchased by True to put the Getty on the map. But still eluding the Italians is

the Getty Bronze, a statue of an athlete hauled out of international waters in 1964 by Italian fishermen; it was the prized acquisition of the Getty's first antiquities curator, Jiri Frel, who brought thousands more looted antiquities into the museum through a tax-fraud scheme. The authors offer an excellent recap of the museum's misdeeds, brimming with tasty details of the scandal that motivated several of America's leading art museums to voluntarily return to Italy and Greece some 100 classical antiquities worth more than half a billion dollars. 8 pages of b&w photos. (May)  
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**Review** "America's great art museums are the last sacred cows of our culture. It takes a special sort of intrepid investigator backed by a courageous organization to uncover the secrets and lies of these quasi-public institutions and the private agendas of their wealthy and influential patrons. *Chasing Aphrodite* is the result of one such rare convergence. A scary, true tale of the blinding allure of great art and the power of the wealth that covets it, it is also an inspiring example of the only greater power: the truth."- Michael Gross, author of *Rogues' Gallery: The Secret History of the Moguls and the Money That Made the Metropolitan Museum*

"A thrilling, well-researched book that offers readers a glimpse into the back-room dealings of a world-class museum--and the illegal trade of looted antiquities. *Chasing Aphrodite* should not be missed. " -Ulrich Boser, author of *THE GARDNER HEIST: The True Story of the World's Largest Unsolved Art Theft*

"*Chasing Aphrodite* is an epic story that, from the first page, grabs you by the lapels and won't let go. Jason Felch and Ralph Frammolino have penetrated the inner sanctum of one of the world's most powerful museums, exposing how its caretakers - blinded by greed, arrogance [and self-deception - eagerly tapped international networks of criminals in pursuit of the next great masterpiece. [It is a breathtaking tale that I guarantee will keep you reading late into the night. - Kurt Eichenwald, author of *CONSPIRACY OF FOOLS: A True Story*

"*Chasing Aphrodite* is a brilliantly told, richly detailed, and vitally important account of how one of America's top cultural institutions spent millions buying treasures stolen from ancient graves and then spent millions more trying to deny it. In the hands of Felch and Frammolino, the story gathers a riveting momentum as the Getty moves from one ethical smashup to another. The authors present an astonishing array of evidence, yet they are scrupulously balanced and keenly sensitive to the nuances of the cultural-property debate. Even if you think you know the story of the Getty, read this book. You won't know whether to laugh or to cry, but you will be enthralled." --Roger Atwood, author of *Stealing History: Tomb Raiders, Smugglers, and the Looting of the Ancient World*

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