

Association of Art Museum Curators

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Statement on University of Iowa's Jackson Pollock Sale

The Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC), representing over a thousand curators from across North America, staunchly opposes the proposed sale of Jackson Pollock, *Mural*, 1943, from the permanent collection of the University of Iowa Museum of Art.

This proposed sale violates a cornerstone of museum ethics, which dictates that no work of art from a museum's collection can be sold other than to acquire other works of art so as to upgrade and refine the collection in question. The proposed sale of *Mural* stands not only in clear opposition to museum ethics but also to the long-term interests of the University of Iowa Museum of Art, of the university at large, and of the state of Iowa. To sell a lynchpin of the Museum's collection--one of the most important works of art in Iowa--would forever harm the reputation of the Museum, the university, and the state. Selling the work would permanently deprive current and future generations of University of Iowa students--as well as regional, national, and international visitors to its campus--of a significant component of the university's and the state's cultural patrimony.