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PRESS RELEASE

Yale Center for British Art and Yale University Art Gallery
announce the 2008 Andrew Carnduff Ritchie Lecture Series.

In April, 2008, the Yale Center for British Art and the Yale University Art Gallery will present the Andrew Cardnuff Ritchie Lecture Series, comprised of two panel discussions: *Rescuing da Vinci*, on Thursday, April 17, and *History of Matzah: The Story of the Jews*, on Thursday, April 24. Both lectures will begin at 5:30 pm in the Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Lecture Hall, Yale University Art Gallery (1111 Chapel Street).

On April 17, panelists Robert Edsel, President of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art and author of *Rescuing da Vinci*; William B. Keller, Fine Arts Librarian, Anne and Jerome Fisher Fine Arts Library, University of Pennsylvania; and Catherine Roach, doctoral candidate in the Department of Art History, Columbia University, will discuss the Nazi pillage of European art treasures and the efforts of the Monuments Men, a dedicated group of art professionals and military men, including Andrew Cardnuff Ritchie and Deane Keller (former professor in the Yale School of Art, scholar, and artist) to rescue those treasures, as recounted in Edsel's book. In conjunction with the lecture, the Center will screen *The Rape of Europa*, the 2006 documentary film that also tells this epic story. Screenings will take place on April 15 and 18 at 1 pm in the Yale Center for British Art Lecture Hall (1080 Chapel Street).



On April 24 Russell Ferguson, Chair, Department of Art, University of California, Los Angeles, and Adjunct Curator, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and James Ponet, Jewish Chaplain and Director of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, will give a panel discussion on Larry Rivers's monumental triptych *History of Matzah: The Story of the Jews*. This mural-style narrative history of the Jewish people from the biblical period to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when millions emigrated to America, encompasses three panels that together measure more than 450 square feet. *History of Matzah* was generously given to the Yale University Art Gallery in 2004 by Jeffrey H. Loria, BA 1962, in memory of Harriet Loria Popowitz.

The Ritchie Lecture Series is jointly sponsored by the Yale Center for British Art and the Yale University Art Gallery and was established to honor the memory of Andrew Cardnuff Ritchie, director of the Yale University Art Gallery from 1957 to 1971. The Ritchie Lectures are offered annually and bring to the University distinguished members of the international visual arts community. These lectures are free and open to the public, honoring Ritchie's belief that the art museum serves as a gathering place for all members of the community.

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YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

The Yale Center for British Art is a public art museum and research institute for the study of British art and culture. Presented to Yale University by Paul Mellon (Class of 1929), the Center houses the largest collection of British art outside the United Kingdom. The collection of paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, rare books, and manuscripts reflects the development of British art and life from the Elizabethan period onward. Works on view include masterpieces by Joshua Reynolds, George Stubbs, Thomas Gainsborough, J.M.W. Turner, and John Constable, as well as major artists from Europe and America who lived and worked in Britain. The Center also offers a year-round schedule of exhibitions and programs. Resources include a reference library and study room for examining works on paper. Opened to the public in 1977, the Center is the final building designed by acclaimed American architect Louis Kahn. It stands across the street from Kahn's first major commission, the Yale University Art Gallery (1953). Located at 1080 Chapel Street in New Haven, the Center is free and open to the public. Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM-5 PM; Sunday 12-5 PM; open Wednesdays until 8 PM (September-December). Visit <http://yale.edu/ycba>, or call 203 432 2800 .



YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

The Yale University Art Gallery, America's oldest and one of its most important university art museums, was founded in 1832, when patriot-artist John Trumbull donated more than 100 of his paintings to Yale College. Since then, the Gallery's collections have grown to number more than 185,000 objects, spanning the globe and ranging in date from ancient times to the present day. In addition to its celebrated collections of American paintings and decorative arts, the Gallery is noted for its important holdings of Greek and Roman art; early Italian paintings; later European art; Asian art; African art; art of the ancient Americas; and Impressionist, modern, and contemporary works. The recently completed restoration of the Gallery's 1953 Louis Kahn building is part of a comprehensive renovation and expansion of the museum's entire facility, scheduled for completion in 2011. Located at the corner of Chapel and York Streets in New Haven, the Gallery is open to the public free of charge: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, Thursday until 8:00 PM (September-June); Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM. For additional information, the public may visit <http://artgallery.yale.edu>, or call 203.432.0600.



Images: Photo from *The Rape of Europa*, Captain James J. Rorimer supervises the safeguarding of art stolen from French Jews and stored during World War II at Schloss Neuschwanstein in southern Bavaria, 1945, photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration; Aerial photo of the Center, by Richard Caspole, Yale Center for British Art; Yale University Art Gallery, Louis Kahn building; view of west window-wall, 2006, © 2006 Yale University Art Gallery, photo by Elizabeth Felicella