

Art Dealers Association of America Statement on New Tariffs on Art from China

New York – August 19, 2019 – The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) made the following statement regarding last week’s announcement by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) that art from China will be subject to new U.S. tariffs:

Art dealers in the United States are small and mid-sized businesses that operate within the global art market. Many of them specialize in Chinese art, and there are many more that work with living Chinese artists. For these reasons, the imposition of tariffs on art from China will have a detrimental impact on many American art dealers. With the tariffs in place, it will be virtually impossible for these businesses to price artwork competitively within the global art market. In addition, galleries are frequently the main vehicles for artists to sell their works, so we are concerned for the even greater number of artists whose livelihoods will be affected by the new tariffs. Regrettably, the tariffs will also stifle the greater cultural exchange that galleries foster.

During the USTR’s review of proposed tariffs in 2018, and its more recent review in 2019, the ADAA formally shared these same concerns with the USTR and requested that the following be removed from consideration for tariff application: paintings and drawings; collages and similar decorative plaques; original engravings, prints, and lithographs; and original sculptures and statuary, in any material. The Association also engaged its membership across the country to formally share with the USTR their perspectives about the detrimental impact to their individual businesses and the artists they represent. We are grateful to the ADAA membership and other supporters and collaborators who have joined with us to alert the USTR, as well as the cultural community at large, about the damaging effects of these new tariffs.

About the ADAA

The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) is a nonprofit membership organization that supports the economic and cultural contributions of the nation’s leading fine art galleries. The ADAA includes nearly 180 members from 30 cities in the U.S., representing hundreds of established and emerging artists internationally. ADAA members have extensive expertise across primary and secondary markets and established reputations for upholding the best practices in the field. The ADAA serves as a resource and advocate, raising awareness of dealers’ critical roles in the international art market and the cultural community.

The ADAA is a leader on issues pertaining to connoisseurship, scholarship, ethical practice, and public policy. The ADAA’s position is further enhanced by its Appraisal Service, which has valued works of art for donation, estate, gift tax, and insurance for over 50 years, and represents a depth of art historical and market knowledge. The ADAA Foundation, supported by donations from ADAA members, promotes a broad

205 Lexington Avenue
Suite #901
New York, NY 10016
telephone: (212) 488-5550
fax: (646) 688-6809
e-mail: adaa@artdealers.org
website: www.artdealers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew Schoelkopf
President

Justine Birbil
Vice President

Anthony Meier
Vice President

Frances Beatty
Secretary

John Van Doren
Treasurer

Matt Bangser
Stefania Bortolami
Susan Dunne
Christopher Eykyn
Susan Inglett
Andrew Kreps
Wendy Olsoff
Sukanya Rajaratnam
Andrew Witkin
Lauren Wittels

EX-OFFICIO

Past Presidents
William R. Acquavella
James N. Goodman
Richard Solomon
Roland J. Augustine
Lucy Mitchell-Innes
Dorsey Waxter
Adam Sheffer

ADMINISTRATION

Maureen Bray
Executive Director

Jo Backer Laird
Counsel

range of activity in the arts and culture community by distributing grants to museums, archives, and arts organizations. Recent grantees include the Knoxville Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, and the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian. www.artdealers.org

Press Contact:

Barbara Escobar
Resnicow and Associates
+1.212.671.5174
bescobar@resnicow.com

205 Lexington Avenue
Suite #901
New York, NY 10016
telephone: (212) 488-5550
fax: (646) 688-6809
e-mail: adaa@artdealers.org
website: www.artdealers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew Schoelkopf
President

Justine Birbil
Vice President

Anthony Meier
Vice President

Frances Beatty
Secretary

John Van Doren
Treasurer

Matt Bangser
Stefania Bortolami
Susan Dunne
Christopher Eykyn
Susan Inglett
Andrew Kreps
Wendy Olsoff
Sukanya Rajaratnam
Andrew Witkin
Lauren Wittels

EX-OFFICIO

Past Presidents
William R. Acquavella
James N. Goodman
Richard Solomon
Roland J. Augustine
Lucy Mitchell-Innes
Dorsey Waxter
Adam Sheffer

ADMINISTRATION

Maureen Bray
Executive Director

Jo Backer Laird
Counsel