



THE CHARLES HOSMER  
MORSE MUSEUM  
*of American Art*

**FBI Special Agent Robert K. Wittman Will Speak on  
International Art Crime at Morse/Rollins Public  
Lecture**

*Editor's Note: We are unable to supply a photograph of Mr. Wittman because he works undercover. High-resolution digital images of the FBI's Art Crime Team logo and of objects from the FBI's Top 10 list of art crime cases are available by contacting us at [pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org](mailto:pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org).*

WINTER PARK, Fla. (March 13, 2006) - Art and cultural property crime is the world's fourth-largest category of international crime, a growing black market today generating losses of up to \$6 billion annually and a problem that is garnering increased attention from the FBI.

On Tuesday, April 11, the Morse Museum in association with the Arts at Rollins College will present a public lecture on international art crime by Special Agent Robert K. Wittman, the senior investigator for the FBI's recently organized Art Crime Team. The eight-member team, the FBI's first specially dedicated unit for art crime, was established in November 2004 to step up U.S. response capabilities after the tragic looting of the National Museum in Baghdad.

In his lecture, "U.S. vs. Art Thieves," Special Agent Wittman will discuss the United States' renewed efforts to break up crime rings that steal and smuggle priceless works of art, loot archaeological sites and churn out forgeries, as well as some of his own experiences in his almost 18 years on the FBI's art beat.

The lecture will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Knowles Memorial Chapel on the Rollins College campus. Admission is free. A reception, also open to the public, will follow the lecture. Parking is available in the SunTrust Parking Garage in Winter Park, which is accessed via Lyman or Comstock Avenues off of Park Avenue.

Special Agent Wittman, whose investigative work takes him around the world and oftentimes undercover, has been responsible for the recovery of more than \$150 million worth of stolen art and cultural property. Highlights include one of the original 14 copies of the Bill of Rights, a Rembrandt self-portrait, a 2,000-year-old pre-Columbian piece of body armor, five Norman Rockwell

paintings, and a group of paintings, two by Spanish master Francisco Goya, from a private Madrid estate.

When he's not on an urgent case, Special Agent Wittman lectures often in an effort to teach others how to avoid becoming victims of theft or fraud. He has given presentations before such organizations as the American Association of Museums and has also represented the United States at numerous international conferences. He serves as a member of the Department of State's Cultural Antiquities Task Force in Washington.

Special Agent Wittman is widely known and recognized for his expertise. In 2004, the Smithsonian Institution awarded Wittman the Robert Burke Memorial Award for Excellence in Cultural Property Protection at the National Conference on Cultural Property Protection.

The Morse Museum's collections were built over several decades by Jeannette Genius McKean (1909-1989), who founded the Museum in 1942, and her husband, Hugh F. McKean (1908-1995), president of Rollins College from 1951 to 1969 and the Museum's director until his death. The McKeans endowed the Museum to ensure that it would survive forever as a community resource. It receives no public funds.

The Arts at Rollins College is a dynamic program that brings together the nationally recognized Annie Russell Theatre, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, and Winter Park Bach Festival with the college's programs in art, dance, film, literature, music, and theater.

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