

## Principles for repatriation and restitution

The Glyptotek takes provenance issues very seriously and handles requests for repatriation and restitution in a thorough and scientific manner. Repatriation requests or other cases where objects are to be separated from the Glyptotek's collection, the Glyptotek follows six basic principles based on legal, professional, and ethical considerations:

1. **The Glyptotek is a state-recognised museum and is subject to the Danish Museum Act**, which states that state-recognised museums may, in special cases and with the approval of the Minister of Culture, remove objects from the museum's collections. As a state-recognised museum subject to the Danish Museum Act, the Glyptotek is generally NOT allowed to sell or otherwise remove works from its collection.

It follows from section 33 of the Danish Museum Act that a museum may not acquire an object if the object has been exported from another country in violation of that country's legislation and the matter is covered by an international agreement that has been acceded to by the country in question and Denmark (subsection 1) - and if such an acquisition has been made in violation of subsection 1, it must be returned in accordance with the relevant international agreement (subsection 2).

If the Glyptotek wishes to separate objects from its collection, the museum must apply for separation from the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces (SLKS) according to normal procedure.

2. **The Glyptotek follows the UNESCO Convention of 1970** (followed by Danish law from 2003 and 2011, when Denmark ratified the 1970 Convention) **as well as the museum ethical guidelines issued by ICOM (International Council of Museums)**, which were adopted in 1986. These agreements are based on extensive professional work across nations and institutions, which the museum has signed up to and adheres to.

### [The UNESCO Convention of 1970](#)

### [The museum ethical guidelines issued by ICOM \(International Council of Museums\)](#)

Denmark acceded to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Sale of Cultural Property on 26 June 2003. According to Article 7 of the Convention, an acceding state must take the necessary measures to prevent museums and similar institutions from acquiring objects that have been illegally exported from another state after the Convention has entered into force in both states concerned.

With effect from 1 July 2011, Denmark has also acceded to the UNIDROIT Convention of 24 June 1995 on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, which sets out a number of conditions for the restitution of illegally exported objects.

Section 33 of the Danish Museum Act does not apply to objects acquired before Denmark's accession to the Convention.

3. In some cases, considerations of museum ethics may weigh more heavily than legal matters. This may apply to objects acquired before 2003, when Denmark acceded to the UNESCO Convention on the Treatment of Illegal and Stolen Objects. The Glyptotek emphasises **the ethical aspects** of repatriation

and restitution cases if there is compelling evidence that an object has been obtained, for example, through illicit excavations and illegal export.

4. **The Glyptotek endeavours to act proactively** if the museum becomes aware of objects that may have been acquired in violation of the museum's acquisition policy, the UNESCO Convention and ICOM's guidelines. In such cases, the Glyptotek will always contact the relevant parties in the case in order to investigate the circumstances of the case and the further course of action.
5. **The Glyptotek works scientifically and research-based in each individual case to provide a professional basis for decision-making and documentation** regarding the possible separation of an artefact. The Glyptotek makes its knowledge and research results available to the other parties to the case and, after the case has been finalised, also to the public. The Glyptotek's case handling focuses on **the individual work** rather than on the interests of the collection or individual countries.
6. The Glyptotek strives to process repatriation and restitution cases through **dialogue** between the parties involved rather than through the media and public debates until the case is concluded for all parties. This is to ensure an open and professional dialogue between the parties involved and to ensure the necessary professional process that forms the basis for the final decision in each individual case.
7. **If a case leads to repatriation/restitution**, the Glyptotek wishes to use a transfer as a starting point for closer communication, exhibition, and research collaboration with the institution to which the artefact is repatriated.