

Eindhoven, 15 September 2022

## Second binding opinion of the Restitutions Committee: return of the Kandinsky painting

Today, the Restitutions Committee announced its second binding opinion on the *Blick auf Murnau mit Kirche* painting by Wassily Kandinsky. It has advised the Eindhoven municipality and the Van Abbemuseum to return the painting to the family concerned. This painting has been in the Eindhoven municipality's possession since 1951 and forms part of the collection held by the Van Abbemuseum.

The municipality and the museum respect this second binding opinion and will organise the transfer in consultation with the family as soon as possible. This second binding opinion was preceded by an additional investigation that lasted two years and produced new material. Based on this, the Restitutions Committee has concluded it is highly likely that the work originated from the family's collection and there is sufficient evidence that the family lost possession of it against their will through circumstances directly related to the Nazi regime. The full opinion is available at [www.restitutiecommissie.nl](http://www.restitutiecommissie.nl).

Anastasia van Gennip, business director of the Van Abbemuseum: *'It is fitting that this lengthy process has now come to an end. The Restitutions Committee's opinion is clear and binding. We will arrange the transfer in consultation with the family as soon as possible. Both the municipality and the museum have always taken the view that justice must be done in cases like these. We have participated in all investigations with an open mind and cooperated in them along with the family.'*



Wassily Kandinsky, *Blick auf Murnau mit Kirche*, 1910, oil on canvas

### First binding opinion

In 2015, the Van Abbemuseum received a formal claim to the work of art that had been acquired in 1951. After an initial investigation, the municipality and the family jointly decided to approach the Restitutions Committee for a binding opinion. The Dutch government created this independent committee in 2001 to provide binding opinions on requests of this nature. It has the expertise required for this purpose. In January 2018, the Restitutions Committee ruled in a first binding opinion that the municipality of Eindhoven need not transfer the painting to the family.

**New information**

The family then brought legal proceedings to set aside the first binding opinion. Relying on new information, the family later submitted a review request to the Restitutions Committee. The Committee stated that it would not be able to handle the review request while legal proceedings to set aside the binding opinion were in progress. The legal proceedings were then ended.

**Second binding opinion**

In February 2019, the municipality and the family jointly submitted a new request to the Restitutions Committee for a binding opinion. This second binding opinion was delayed because the coronavirus pandemic hindered the additional investigation. The municipality and the museum regret that the investigation has taken so long.