

October 30, 2014

Mark Mitchell
DeepCapture.com

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Thank you for your email. Due to confidentially agreements between the parties, I am not at liberty to disclose information, specific or otherwise, about the purchase of the bronzes by Yank Barry ("YB") and his charity, Global Village Champions Foundation ("GVCF"), or about the sale, payments made, the litigation or the settlement. You have the public record which speaks for itself.

Regarding your queries, to set the record straight and to be clear, YB and GVCF had absolutely nothing to do with the casting of the bronzes or "bringing the bronzes to market" as you wrote. The casting of 73 Degas bronzes was done under an agreement between The Degas Sculpture Project Ltd ("DSP") and the Valsuani Foundry in strict accordance with French law and with the approval and consent of the legal heirs of Edgar Degas.

I have no knowledge about what YB might have stated on the import-export documents if or when he might have shipped bronzes "across borders."

You reported four allegations were made by "some art dealers."

(1) You wrote "DSP and YB effectively planned to raffle off the sculptures knowing that they were not worth the appraisal amount."

False. DSP made no such plans or agreements with GVCF.

(2) You wrote DSP filed the law suit "to reinforce the notion that the sculptures were master works of art worth millions of dollars."

False. DSP does not need this validation. This has been validated by museums.

(3) You wrote the law suit was filed to "help YB demonstrate that he, YB, would emerge victorious in any lawsuit concerning the legitimacy of his charitable activities."

False.

(4) You wrote YB and DSP perpetrated a fraud in all these regards.

False.

Please provide the names and contact information of the art dealers who made these false allegations.

Your email also stated, "It has been reported that the Degas sculptures that you (DSP) obtained are not authentic Degas sculptures."

Apparently you, like many others, were misled by some biased and inaccurate articles that led readers to believe there might be something wrong with the bronzes.

There is nothing wrong with the bronzes. They are authentic, and to the best of my knowledge no one has actually reported that the Degas sculptures are not authentic. If you know otherwise please advise as to the source.

More to the point, the Degas sculptures (plasters and bronzes) have been certified by both the legal heirs of Edgar Degas (the Succession Degas) and by the Comité Degas which also holds the right to authenticate.

Furthermore, ten museums, including the Hermitage, have held exhibitions of the bronzes. Surely no museum, especially the Hermitage which is among the worlds greatest, would exhibit the bronzes if they felt there was any question about the authenticity. This should put the matter to rest.

Finally, I am not aware that YB is involved in an international syndicate that deals in counterfeit and stolen art. I do not know any art dealer named Peter Maron.

Regards,

Walter Maibaum
Executive Director
The Degas Sculpture Project Ltd