

IMMUNITY FROM SEIZURE REPORT 2010–11

This report applies to the second successive year of the application of the legislation passed in 2007 (under Part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007) to provide immunity from seizure for objects from abroad lent to temporary exhibitions. The National Gallery gained approval in 2008 to apply for protection for specific loans to exhibitions under the provisions of the Act.

The Gallery has continued to apply the necessary processes developed in the first year following its approval under the Act. These involve compiling details of provenance for each exhibition loan, researching and recording further information and carefully considering any gaps in provenance. Details of the objects requiring immunity from seizure together with details of the research undertaken are published on the National Gallery website at least four weeks and one day before the objects are imported into the UK.

For two of the three exhibitions recorded here for the year 2010–11 there were a far greater number of requests for immunity from seizure than in the previous period, requiring more time spent in researching and compiling information to be published on the National Gallery website. The greater numbers were at least in part a reflection of the substantial number of American loans to these exhibitions.

Exhibitions including protected items (April 2010–March 2011)

Venice: Canaletto and his Rivals

13 October 2010 – 16 January 2011

17 paintings

Jan Gossaert's Renaissance

23 February – 30 May 2011

15 paintings, 6 drawings, 2 prints, 2 sculptures

An American Experiment: George Bellows and the Ashcan Painters

3 March – 30 May 2011

1 painting

No enquiries or claims were received under Section 7 of the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan (Publication and Provision of Information) Regulations 2008.