



## MEMORANDUM

January 19, 2024

**TO:** MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION  
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, President  
Hon. Willie Adams, Vice President  
Hon. Gail Gilman  
Hon. Ed Harrington  
Hon. Steven Lee

**FROM:** Elaine Forbes  
Executive Director 

**SUBJECT:** Request approval of conditional, no-cost transfer of abandoned property (historical artworks) to cultural institution for preservation, study, and public display at no cost to the Port.

**DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Attached Resolution No. 24-05

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Port staff recovered abandoned property at Crane Cove Park in May of 2022. Port staff identified and confirmed the historical significance of the property as artwork by Ary Arcadie Lochakov. Port staff, with San Francisco Arts Commission staff, approached numerous institutions and identified a museum in France, the Museum of Art and History of Judaism (mahJ), to receive the works. The mahJ agreed to preserve, study, and display the art, and will pay all shipping costs. Prior to transfer, Port staff would like to display the art at a Port facility and request Port Commission approval to transfer possession of the artwork.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This project supports the goals of the Port's Strategic Plan as follows:

Engagement: By donating the recovered art of Ary Lochakov to the Museum of Art and History of Judaism (mahJ), the Port of San Francisco will be participating in the preservation of the important history of a marginalized community.

**THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO. 10D**

Equity: By transferring the art of an individual who died due to antisemitic persecution, the Port has the opportunity to promote the preservation and education of Jewish art history.

## **BACKGROUND**

On May 13, 2022, Port Maintenance staff discovered 48 pieces of assorted artwork at Crane Cove Park. The artwork appeared to be intentionally abandoned: the works were arranged on cement benches with no identification of ownership and no owner nearby.

## **PROJECT**

Port staff attempted to identify any owner(s) of the pieces when they were discovered and verified with the San Francisco Police Department that the artwork was not reported stolen or missing. Port staff could not successfully identify any owner or claimant.

Port staff researched the artwork and found that 38 of the 48 pieces appear to have been created by a renowned Jewish artist named Ary Arcadie Lochakov between 1920 and 1941. Staff research found that Ary Arcadie Lochakov was a WWI veteran in the Russian army who moved to Paris, France to pursue his art career. He was a journeyman artist with his works entered in many prestigious shows and exhibitions throughout France. During WWII, he was forced into hiding in a Jewish ghetto in Paris under Nazi occupation, where he died from malnutrition on October 5, 1941. Lochakov's artwork has great cultural and historical significance to the Jewish community and his works are considered a portion of a collection known as "Our Martyr Artists." Port staff further verified the significance of his artwork by contacting Jewish art experts at institutions in Israel and France.

Port staff conferred with staff of the San Francisco Arts Commission, which is responsible for City approval of the acquisition, transfer, or sale of all works of art by the City. Arts Commission staff determined that the works were not appropriate for local institutions and that transfer to another institution for preservation, study, and display may be appropriate and would relieve the City of the responsibility and expense of storing and preserving the works. Port staff, and the Executive Director, in consultation with Arts Commission staff and the City Attorney's Office, vetted potential institutions for receiving the collection. Staff contacted various institutions, including local cultural institutions, such as The Contemporary Jewish Museum, to confirm any interest in taking possession of the works for preservation, study, and public display. Staff agreed that the Museum of Art and History of Judaism (mahJ) in Paris, France is the most appropriate institution interested in accepting and displaying the works in an exhibit dedicated to the artist.

Port staff communicated with mahJ staff and agreed, subject to Port Commission approval, that the mahJ will: (1) pay for transportation of the works to Paris; (2) ensure the works are preserved, studied, and made available to the public including the potential to lend the works to other institutions; (3) return the works to the Port, if necessary; and (4) acknowledge that the works are "Courtesy of the Port of San Francisco, California" when displayed.

Port staff would like to display the artwork at the Port prior to any transfer and document this story for local media publications.

**FUNDING**

Subject to Port Commission approval of transfer, the mahJ agreed to incur all costs associated with the shipment of the artwork to their museum in Paris.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Port staff recommends that the Port Commission approve the attached resolution authorizing staff to transfer possession of the art to the mahJ with no additional cost to the Port.

Prepared by: Arianna Cunha  
Administrative Analyst, Special Projects – Maintenance Division

For: Tim Felton  
Director, Maintenance Division

Exhibit: Recovered Art Catalog

**PORT COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-05**

- WHEREAS, on May 13, 2022, Port Maintenance staff discovered 48 pieces of artwork at Crane Cove Park that appeared to be intentionally abandoned: the works were displayed on cement benches with no identification of ownership and no owner nearby;
- WHEREAS, the Port attempted to identify any owner(s) of the pieces when they were discovered, and thereafter by verifying with the San Francisco Police Department that the artwork was not reported stolen or missing, but Port staff could not successfully identify any owner or claimant;
- WHEREAS, Port staff research found that 38 of the 48 pieces appear to have been created by a renowned Jewish artist named Ary Arcadie Lochakov between 1920-1941;
- WHEREAS, Lochakov was a WWI veteran who moved to Paris, France to pursue his art career and was a journeyman artist with his works entered in many prestigious shows and exhibitions throughout France; he was forced into hiding during WWII in a Paris hotel under Nazi occupation, where he died from malnutrition on October 5, 1941;
- WHEREAS, Lochakov's artwork has great cultural and historical significance to the Jewish community and his works are considered a portion of a collection known as "Our Martyr Artists," Port staff further verified the significance of his artwork by contacting Jewish art experts at institutions in Israel and France;
- WHEREAS, Charter Section B3.581 empowers the Port Commission with the power and duty to use, conduct, operate, maintain, manage, regulate and control the Port area of the City and County of San Francisco;
- WHEREAS, Port staff conferred with staff of the San Francisco Arts Commission, which Commission is otherwise responsible for City approval of the acquisition, transfer, or sale of all works of art by the City;
- WHEREAS, Arts Commission staff determined that the works were not appropriate for local institutions and that transfer to another institution for preservation, study, and display may be appropriate and relieve the City of the responsibility and expense of storing and preserving the works;
- WHEREAS, Port staff, and the Executive Director, in consultation with Arts Commission staff and the City Attorney's Office, vetted potential institutions for receiving the collection and identified the Museum of Art and History of Judaism (mahJ) in Paris, France as the most appropriate institution interested in accepting the works; and

WHEREAS, the Port may display the works for the San Francisco public prior to transfer to the mahJ, and to document this story for local media publications; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Port Commission hereby authorizes the Port Executive Director, or the Executive Director's designee, to take all actions necessary and proper to transfer possession of the intentionally abandoned artworks to the Museum of Art and History of Judaism (mahJ), or other suitable institution, for the works to be preserved, studied, and made available to scholars and the public, which actions may include but are not limited to execution of documents related to the works, and receipts, reports, or other confirmation of the transfer; and be it further



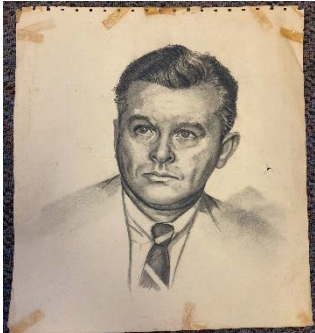

RESOLVED, that the Port Commission authorizes the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee, to take such further actions that the Executive Director, in consultation with the City Attorney, determines are in the best interest of the Port, do not materially increase the obligations or liabilities of the Port or materially decrease the public benefits accruing to the Port, and are necessary and advisable to complete the transfer and effectuate the purpose and intent of this Resolution and accompanying memorandum dated as of January 23, 2024, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery by the Executive Director of any such documents.






***I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Port Commission at its meeting of January 23, 2024.***


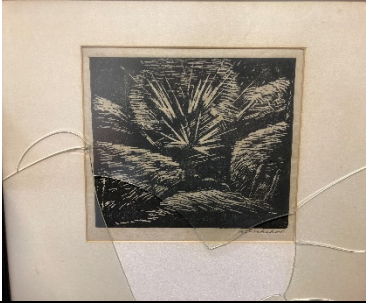

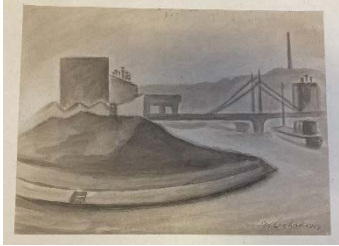

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Secretary





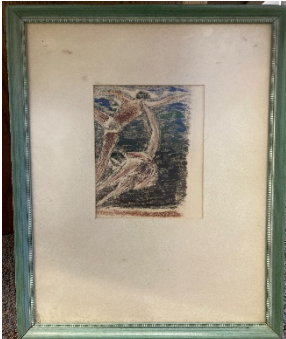
**EXHIBIT A**  
**Recovered Art Catalog**






Tag #	PHOTO	ARTIST NAME	NAME OF PIECE (if noted)	MEDIA TYPE	SIZE (inches)	OTHER IDENTIFIER
1		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Pencil on paper	12.5 x 19.75	Female portrait
2		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	*Located on top left corner	Watercolor on paper	10.5 x 14.75	Hand  Dated: 1929
3		Unknown	N/A	Pencil on paper	13.5 x 16.5	Male portrait
4		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	12.5 x 19.5	Face  Dated: 1935

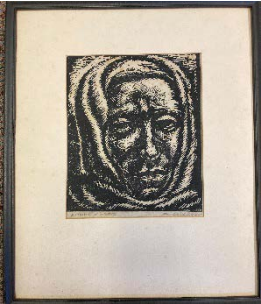

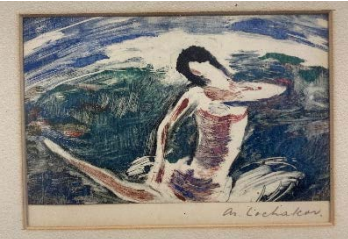

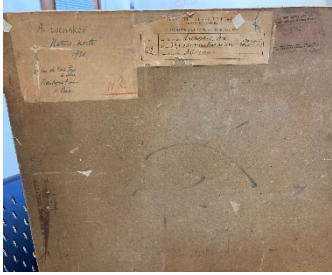
5		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Pencil on paper	12.5 x 19.5	Female portrait
6		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	4/30	Ink stamp on paper	Framed: 12.5 x 16.5	Dated: 1937
7		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Ink stamp on paper	11 x 13.5	Solider
8		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on paper	Framed: 14 x 19	Dancing figures in green frame
9		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Red pencil on paper	8.5 x 9	Female portrait




10		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	3.5 x 5.5	Dated: 1935
11		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Ink stamp on paper	Framed: 12.5 x 18	Frame with broken glass
12		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Ink stamp on paper	Framed: 12.5 x 16.5	Faces of soldiers
13		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	11 x 13	Landscape w/bridge
14		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	14 x 21	Female portrait


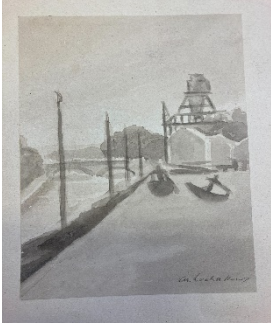




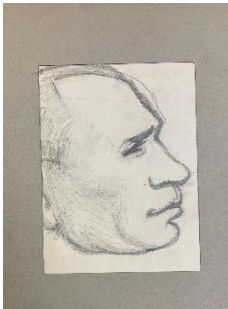
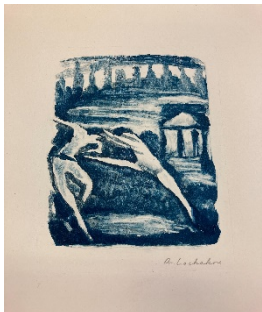



15		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	4.5 x 6.5	Moving figures Dated: 1935
16		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Red pencil on paper	6.5 x 8	Female portrait Dated: 1930
17		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Ink stamp on paper	Framed: 13.5 x 18	War scene
18		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Pencil on paper	4 x 6.5	Female figure
19		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on paper	Framed: 14 x 19	Dancing people in green frame


20		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Pen on paper	4.5 x 6	
21		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	7.5 x 10.5	Landscape scene
22		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	6.5 x 10	Figures Dated: 1935
23		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on paper	Framed: 14 x 19	Dancing people in green frame
24		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on masonite board	18 x 21.5	Female portrait

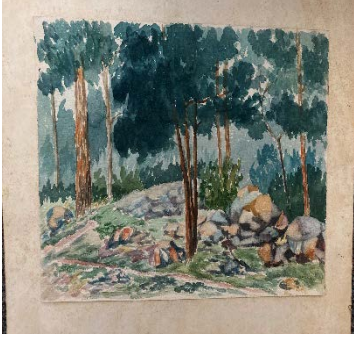
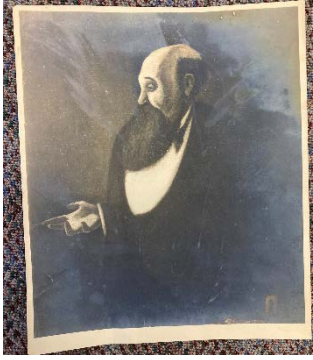

25		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	*Located on bottom left corner	Ink stamp on paper	Framed: 12.5 x 17	
26		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on masonite board	Framed: 14 x 19	Women & horse
27		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on paper	Framed: 14 x 19	In green frame
28	 	Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	Nature-morte N2	Paint on Masonite board	24 x 18	Dated: 1930  Details written on the back

29		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	Nature-morte N4	Paint on masonite board	21.5 x 18.5	Details written on the back
30		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Ink stamp on paper	Framed: 14.5 x 18.5	Dated: 1936
31		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Carving on wood block	9 x 7	Possibly used as stamp

32		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on masonite board	19 x 24.5	Female portrait  Dated: 1925  Details written on the back
33		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	5.5 x 7	Landscape scene
34		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Watercolor on paper	7 x 5	Landscape scene
35		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Red pencil on paper	4.5 x 7.5	Female Figure

36		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Pencil on paper	Framed: 10 x 13	Face
37		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on cardstock	12.5 x 19.5	Dancing figures
38		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Ink stamp on paper	Framed: 16.5 x 12.5	Soldiers
39		Ary Arcadie LOCHAKOW (Lochakov)	N/A	Paint on paper	Framed: 14 x 19.5	Dancing figures
40		Unknown	N/A	Painting	Framed: 11 x 13	Purple flower

41		Unknown	N/A	Pastel on paper	11.5 x 18.5	Male portrait Dated: 1912
42		Unknown	N/A	Photograph	10.5 x 14	Photograph of script
43		Unknown	N/A	Photograph	10.5 x 14	Photograph of script
44		Unknown	*Located on bottom left corner	Ink stamping on cardstock	7.5 x 8	Two children
45		Unknown	N/A	Watercolor on paper	20 x 13	Two figures

46		Unknown	N/A	Watercolor on paper	16.5 x 13	Landscape Scene
47		Unknown	N/A	Photograph	8.5 x 11	Male figure
48		Unknown	N/A	Pastel on paper	Framed: 16 x 20	Female portrait



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Ary Arcadie  
LOCHAKOW  
(Lochakov)

\*Located in  
bottom right  
corner

Oil paint on  
canvas

14x16

Male portrait