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The Association of Art Museum Curators

Statement Regarding Maier Museum

On behalf of the AAMC Board of Directors

The Association of Art Museum Curators upholds a fundamental and abiding principle that is recognized throughout the museum profession: whenever works of art in a museum's collection are sold, the proceeds cannot be used for any other purpose than the acquisition of other works of art. A museum may seek to refine and improve its collections through such sales, but the decision of Randolph College to sell some of the Maier Museum's greatest paintings to raise general operating endowment for the college violates this basic rule--a rule that is obeyed by all responsible art museums in this country, large or small. Never sell a work of art to pay for a new roof, for an employee's salary, or to cover a debt. We hope that another solution can be found to safeguard the collection of this gem of a museum, which we all respect.

AAMC Board of Directors
October, 2007