

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Cuan Hahndiek  
Tel: +27 82 830 4803  
Email: [chahndiek@sahra.org.za](mailto:chahndiek@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 13586

Date: Friday March 15, 2019  
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## Letter

### In terms of Section 32(19) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Strauss Fine Art Auctioneers

Postnet Suite 200  
Private Bag X26  
Tokai  
Cape Town  
7966

### **Strauss & Co Fine Art Auctioneers permit application for the permanent export of the painting "The Mauve Sari" by South African artist, Irma Stern.**

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) is unable to process your application for the export of the painting *The Mauve Sari* by South African artist Irma Stern and must therefore return the permit application to the applicant; Strauss & co.

In order for the SAHRA to process a permit application, it is essential that it be confirmed that the heritage object for which a permit is being applied, is indeed intended for export. In the case where a heritage object is on auction in South Africa, a permit cannot be processed when an intention to export has been expressed but has not been confirmed. In this instance, although the work may potentially be purchased by a foreign party, there exists the possibility that those works may still be sold to a local party, thereby negating the requirement for permitting. The processing of a permit would therefore be premature.

The SAHRA is obligated to have reached and communicated a decision to an applicant within 60 calendar days. It must be noted however, that every effort is made to ensure that decisions are made in as timeous a fashion as possible. In this instance SAHRA has not been afforded sufficient time in order to give this unprecedented application the consideration such matters require.

To date, no permit application has been processed by SAHRA without the full disclosure of the intended destination of the heritage object. To embark upon such a course of action now will establish a contentious precedent which could have far reaching implications for the conservation and preservation of South African

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heritage objects.

The SAHRA is not satisfied that the requirements have been met by the applicant and is consequently unable to process the permit application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Cuan Hahndiek  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Regina Isaacs  
Manager: Heritage Objects Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/521574>