

From: Nancy Spector [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 8:18 AM

To: Smith, Donna A. [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

Subject: Request for a loan from the Guggenheim

Dear Donna Hayashi Smith,

Many thanks for your request to the Guggenheim Museum to borrow Vincent Van Gogh's Landscape in the Snow for the President and First Lady's private quarters in the White House. We are pleased that they are interested in demonstrating their support for the arts by showcasing treasures from the nation's cultural institutions. I am sorry, however, to inform you that we are unable to participate in this loan since the painting is part of the museum's Thannhauser Collection, which is prohibited from travel except for the rarest of occasions, and we just received permission from the Thannhauser Estate to allow the work to travel to our sister institution in Bilbao, Spain for an exhibition. I'm afraid that after its showing abroad, it will need to remain on permanent view in our Thannhauser Galleries for the foreseeable future.

Fortuitously, a marvelous work by the celebrated contemporary Italian artist, Maurizio Cattelan, is coming off view today after a year's installation at the Guggenheim, and he would like to offer it to the White House for a long-term loan. It is a solid, 18k gold toilet that was installed in one of our public restrooms for all to use in a wonderful act of generosity. The work beautifully channels the history of 20th-century avant-garde art by referencing Marcel Duchamp's famous urinal of 1917. We would be pleased to help facilitate this loan for the artist should the President and First Lady have any interest in installing it in the White House. It is, of course, extremely valuable and somewhat fragile, but we would provide all the instructions for its installation and care. I am including an image for your reference.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have; please feel free to call me on the numbers below.

We are sorry not to be able to accommodate your original request but remain hopeful that this special offer may be of interest.

With kindest regards,

Nancy Spector