

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Art-Crime Novel *Chasing Clay* Now Available

ANAHEIM, CA – November 17, 2019 – Author Lance Charnes is pleased to announce the release of his new art crime novel, *Chasing Clay*, the third installment of *The DeWitt Agency Files* series exploring different aspects of art-related crime.

In his non-fiction memoir *Priceless*, ex-FBI art-crime expert Robert K. Wittman says that the trafficking in stolen art and antiquities is the fourth-largest transnational crime by value, behind drugs, money laundering, and illegal arms shipments. *Chasing Clay*'s hero Matt Friedrich faces his biggest challenge yet as he races the clock to find the origin of some remarkable Asian antiquities and win an early end to his federal probation.

It's pure white, deep blue... and dirty all over.

Nam Ton ware – centuries-old ceramics from Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle – captivated the DeWitt Agency's tech-tycoon client. Now Immigration and Customs Enforcement is on his case for buying smuggled antiquities. To get immunity, he's hired the agency to run an off-books investigation into Nam Ton's source.

Disgraced ex-L.A. gallerist and ex-con Matt Friedrich is in charge. If he finishes within sixty days, he'll earn an early end to his probation. If he doesn't, he may go back to prison for bending the federal criminal code into a pretzel.

Soon enough, Matt's in San Francisco, getting tight with Savannah, the client's beautiful art advisor, to scam his way into the smuggling operation. As the burglary, blackmail, tax evasion and customs fraud piles up and Matt finds himself sandwiched in a federal turf war, he realizes he's in *way* over his head with no good way out. And that's *before* he ends up in a real live jungle.

Matt's dealing with a type of art he knows nothing about from an area he's seen only in war movies. Now the fate of some trafficked pottery may decide whether Matt gets his freedom... or spends a long stretch in a concrete cell.

About the Author

Lance Charnes has been an Air Force intelligence officer, information technology manager, computer-game artist, set designer, *Jeopardy!* contestant, and is now an emergency management specialist. He's had training in architectural rendering, terrorist incident response and maritime archaeology, though not all at the same time. His Facebook author page features spies, archaeology and art crime. *Chasing Clay* is his fifth published novel, including *The Collection*, *Stealing Ghosts*, the international thriller *Doha 12*, and the near-future thriller *South*.

For more information, see the official website (www.wombatgroup.com) or contact the author at lcharnes@wombatgroup.com.

Chasing Clay, a novel by Lance Charnes

346 pages; released by Wombat Group Media on November 8, 2019

Available internationally on Kindle

The trade paperback edition (ISBN 978-1-7333989-0-9) is available internationally through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound, and other online booksellers.

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