

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Art-Crime Novel *Stealing Ghosts* Now Available

ANAHEIM, CA – November 17, 2017 – Author Lance Charnes is pleased to announce the release of his new art crime novel, *Stealing Ghosts*, the sequel to 2016's *The Collection* and the second 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. *Stealing Ghost's* ex-con hero Matt Friedrich has his hands full as he plunges into the ultimate art-related crime – the Nazi theft of hundreds of thousands of works of art during World War Two.

Dorotea DeVillardi is ninety-one years old, gorgeous, and worth a fortune. Matt Friedrich's going to steal her.

The Nazis seized Dorotea's portrait from her Viennese family, then the Soviets stole it from the Nazis. Now it's in the hands of a Russian oligarch. Dorotea's corporate-CEO grandson played by the legal rules to get her portrait back, but he struck out. So he's hired the DeWitt Agency to get it for him – and he doesn't care how they do it.

Now Matt and Carson, his ex-cop partner, have to steal Dorotea's portrait from a museum so nobody knows it's gone, and somehow launder its history so the client doesn't have to hide it forever. The client's saddled them with a babysitter: Dorotea's granddaughter Julie, who may have designs on Matt as well as the painting. As if this wasn't hard enough, it looks like someone else is gunning for the same museum – and he may know more about Matt and Carson's plans than he should.

Matt went to prison for the bad things he did at his L.A. art gallery. Now he has a chance to right an old wrong by doing a bad thing for the best of reasons. All he has to do is stay out of jail long enough to pull it off.

About the Author

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

Stealing Ghosts, a novel by Lance Charnes

346 pages; released by Wombat Group Media on November 17, 2017

Available internationally on Kindle, Nook, Kobo, and iTunes

The trade paperback edition (ISBN 978-0-9886903-8-7) is available internationally through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other online booksellers.

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