

SAFE OFFERS IRAQ MUSEUM BENEFIT TOURS

Jersey City, June 1, 2005—The non-profit group SAFE | Saving Antiquities for Everyone is proud to announce the start of a new series of SAFE Tours at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to benefit the rebuilding of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad. Guided by art historians, archaeologists and museum specialists, the Iraq Museum Benefit Tours provide an “insider’s look” at museum collections to the public at the Ancient Near Eastern galleries. The first tour will take place at 10:15 am on Saturday, June 4 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and will be led by Dr. Oscar Muscarella, an expert in Ancient Near Eastern art and archaeology. Dr. Muscarella will discuss how pieces are legitimately and illegitimately acquired.

“We are delighted to present this series of tours to raise awareness about the immense richness of the art and culture of Ancient Mesopotamia and make a contribution to rebuilding the Iraq Museum at the same time”, says Cindy Ho, Founder and President of SAFE. “Upon request, we will also offer customized tours to suit participants’ specific interests.”

The Iraq Museum Benefit tours are presented in conjunction with the publication of *The Looting of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad: the lost legacy of Ancient Mesopotamia*, edited by Milbry Polk and Angela M H Schuster (Harry N. Abrams). 100% of the proceeds will be donated to Iraq’s State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, for the rebuilding of the Iraq Museum.

To make a reservation and to receive detailed information about the Iraq Museum Benefit Tours, visit savingantiquities.org or contact tours@savingantiquities.org.

About SAFE

SAFE | Saving Antiquities for Everyone creates educational programs and media campaigns to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage worldwide. SAFE is a coalition of professionals in communications, media, and advertising working alongside experts in the academic, legal and law enforcement communities. SAFE has no political affiliations and is sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), a 501(c)(3) corporation. For more information please go to: www.savingantiquities.org.