



World Jewish Congress Honors ‘Woman in Gold’ Actress Helen Mirren for Her Role in Educating the Public About Nazi-Looted Art

By Ronit D. Appel, June 21, 2015

At a ceremony held at the Neue Galerie in Manhattan on Friday, World Jewish Congress president Ronald Lauder presented Academy Award-winning English actress Helen Mirren with the World Jewish Congress Recognition Award for her role in helping to educate the public about Nazi-Looted art. Mirren starred in the 2015 film “Woman in Gold,” which tells the story of Maria Altmann, a Jewish Austrian-American woman who won a legal battle against the Austrian government in 2006 to reclaim several valuable paintings by Gustav Klimt, including the famous *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I*, which was referred to in Austria after the war as “Woman in Gold,” that was stolen from Altmann’s family by the Nazis during World War II.

“Being a part of this film and preserving Maria Altmann’s legacy has been a truly exceptional experience from the start” Mirren said at the ceremony. “I am utterly moved to receive this award from the World Jewish Congress, an organization that does such important work all over the globe in advocating for Jewish rights,” Mirren said.

“Thanks to Helen Mirren’s stunning performance – which really electrified this issue – the international public will learn about this legacy of World War II which still hasn’t been addressed properly by many governments and museums,” Lauder said.

Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer I, which was purchased by Ronald Lauder in 2006 after its restitution to Maria Altmann, is currently on display at the Neue Galerie.



Helen Mirren and Ronald Lauder at the award ceremony at the Neue Galerie. Behind them is the famous painting *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I*.
Photo by Shahar Azran.