

# The New York Times

Arts Briefly, compiled by Lawrence Van Gelder

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## “Foes of Museum’s Move Ask Judge to Reconsider”

by Randy Kennedy

“Opponents of a plan to move the Barnes Foundation and its world-renowned art collection from a Philadelphia suburb to a downtown site asked a Pennsylvania judge on Monday to reconsider his 2004 decision allowing the relocation. Lawyers for the Friends of the Barnes Foundation, a community group, and for the government of Montgomery County, where the Barnes has been since its founding in the late 1920s, appeared before the judge, Stanley R. Ott of the Montgomery County Orphans’ Court in Norristown, to request that he reopen the case. Judge Ott’s ruling in 2004 permitted the foundation, which has struggled financially, to bypass the charter and bylaws of its founder, Albert C. Barnes, who stipulated that no picture in his collection could be lent, sold or moved from the walls of the galleries that he built in Merion. The judge said he considered the move “the only viable alternative” to save the Barnes from bankruptcy. But the opponents contend that the collection’s financial troubles have been overstated and that new ways to raise the money to prevent a move have emerged. The county has offered, for example, to buy the foundation’s buildings and land for \$50 million or more to keep the collection in place. But lawyers for the foundation and for the Pennsylvania attorney general’s office argued before Judge Ott that the county’s plan had come too late and that it could expose the foundation to ‘extraordinary financial risk.’”