



# **Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art**

*Michael Gross*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Michael Gross

## Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art Michael Gross

**“Behind almost every painting is a fortune and behind that a sin or a crime.”**

With these words as a starting point, Michael Gross, leading chronicler of the American rich, begins the first independent, unauthorized look at the saga of the nation's greatest museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In this endlessly entertaining follow-up to his bestselling social history *740 Park*, Gross pulls back the shades of secrecy that have long shrouded the upper class's cultural and philanthropic ambitions and maneuvers. And he paints a revealing portrait of a previously hidden face of American wealth and power.

The Metropolitan, Gross writes, “is a huge alchemical experiment, turning the worst of man's attributes—extravagance, lust, gluttony, acquisitiveness, envy, avarice, greed, egotism, and pride—into the very best, transmuting deadly sins into priceless treasure.” The book covers the entire 138-year history of the Met, focusing on the museum's most colorful characters. Opening with the lame-duck director Philippe de Montebello, the museum's longest-serving leader who finally stepped down in 2008, *Rogues' Gallery* then goes back to the very beginning, highlighting, among many others: the first director, Luigi Palma di Cesnola, an Italian-born epic phony, whose legacy is a trove of plundered ancient relics, some of which remain on display today; John Pierpont Morgan, the greatest capitalist and art collector of his day, who turned the museum from the plaything of a handful of rich amateurs into a professional operation dedicated, sort of, to the public good; John D. Rockefeller Jr., who never served the Met in any official capacity but who, during the Great Depression, proved the only man willing and rich enough to be its benefactor, which made him its behind-the-scenes puppeteer; the controversial Thomas Hoving, whose tenure as director during the sixties and seventies revolutionized museums around the world but left the Met in chaos; and Jane Engelhard and Annette de la Renta, a mother-daughter trustee tag team whose stories will astonish you (think *Casablanca* rewritten by Edith Wharton).

With a supporting cast that includes artists, forgers, and looters, financial geniuses and scoundrels, museum officers (like its chairman Arthur Amory Houghton, head of Corning Glass, who once ripped apart a priceless and ancient Islamic book in order to sell it off piecemeal), trustees (like Jayne Wrightsman, the Hollywood party girl turned society grand dame), curators (like the aging Dietrich von Bothmer, a refugee from Nazi Germany with a Bronze Star for heroism whose greatest acquisitions turned out to be looted), and donors (like Irwin Untermyer, whose collecting obsession drove his wife and children to suicide), and with cameo appearances by everyone from *Vogue* editors Anna Wintour and Diana Vreeland to Sex Pistols front man Johnny Rotten, *Rogues' Gallery* is a rich, satisfying, alternately hilarious and horrifying look at America's upper class, and what is perhaps its greatest creation.

 [Download Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lie ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, L ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art Michael Gross**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mark Copeland:**

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for people. The book Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art has been making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The guide Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art is not only giving you far more new information but also to become your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship using the book Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art. You never truly feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

#### **Jack Lumpkin:**

This Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art tend to be reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The key reason why of this Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art can be one of several great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed anyone with information that perhaps will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art forcing you to have an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

#### **Marlin Peterson:**

This Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art is great e-book for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it details accurately using great organize word or we can say no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but hard core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen tiny right but this publication already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt this?

**Karen Garcia:**

As a university student exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's internal or real their interest. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and also can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art can make you sense more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art Michael Gross #CGLJ8NU5DXM**

## **Read Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Michael Gross for online ebook**

Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Michael Gross Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Michael Gross books to read online.

## **Online Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Michael Gross ebook PDF download**

**Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Michael Gross Doc**

**Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Michael Gross Mobipocket**

**Rogues' Gallery: The Secret Story of the Lust, Lies, Greed, and Betrayals That Made the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Michael Gross EPub**