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# A Sackler finds a buyer for her Upper East Side penthouse

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Compass

14 E. 90th St., Upper East Side

Elizabeth Sackler, a member of the family that created the opioid-crisis-fueling OxyContin, even though Sackler herself has condemned her relatives' "morally abhorrent" business, has found a buyer for her uptown home.

Sackler, an arts advocate, is in contract to sell her three-bedroom penthouse co-op at 14 E. 90th St., according to data from Olshan Realty, a brokerage that tracks high-end residential sales through signed contracts.

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The unit, No. PHW, a 3,100-square-foot aerie at Fifth Avenue that offers a library with a fireplace, a formal dining room and a wraparound terrace with a greenhouse, was most recently listed for about \$12 million.

Whether Sackler was able to get that price for the home, which she bought for \$10.5 million in 2007 from [former Citi Chairman Sanford Weill](#), likely won't be known till the purchase closes and its tax record hits the city register, which could take a few weeks.

But Sackler had initially put the home up for sale in April 2023 at a price of \$16 million, suggesting she misjudged the market by at least 25%.

Co-ops and condos have both faced challenges in the past couple of years as elevated interest rates have dragged on activity. But in recent months buyers have indicated that they [can't wait forever for rates to drop](#) and are inching back into the market.



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The foyer

The buyer of the penthouse, which has 10-foot ceilings and Central Park views, and comes with a separate storage unit, is also unknown.

Nick Gavin of Compass and Susan Penzer of Susan Penzer Real Estate, who co-marketed the property, did not return emails by press time.

Sackler's father, Dr. Arthur Sackler, was one of three brothers who in 1952 purchased the Manhattan-based Purdue Frederick Co. and grew it into a family of companies whose products also included the drug Valium. In 1995 one of the companies, Purdue Pharma, introduced OxyContin, a morphine-like prescription-based painkiller that would go on to become heavily abused. Purdue Pharma officials later admitted as part of a settlement that they downplayed the drug's addictive qualities in its marketing.

Arthur Sackler died in 1987, eight years before OxyContin's arrival. And his brothers, Raymond and Mortimer, bought out Arthur's share in the company upon his death. Elizabeth Sackler has said she never profited from the drug while slamming her family's role in downplaying its hazards.

But later reporting [suggested](#) that relatives of Elizabeth on Arthur's side of the family could at least be indirect beneficiaries of the blockbuster sales of the drug through a chain of wills and trusts, even if Elizabeth herself is not an heir.

The Sacklers were for decades major arts patrons. But in the aftermath of the OxyContin scandal, museums including the Met in New York and the Louvre in Paris removed the family's name from its walls, while other institutions stopped accepting Sackler gifts.

Elizabeth Sackler has led major efforts throughout her career to repatriate looted Native American art and in 2007 established the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, a woman-centric collection and education space at The Brooklyn Museum

Stamford, Connecticut-based Purdue Pharma [filed for bankruptcy protection in 2019](#). But in late June, the Supreme Court rejected a broad agreement that Purdue Pharma had worked out with local governments as part of its bankruptcy plan that would have had the company contribute up to \$6 billion to opioid victims but that also would have shielded Sackler family members from future lawsuits.

But the company, which makes other kinds of pain medications, says it will still work to correct damage wrought by OxyContin. "The decision does nothing to deter us from the twin goals of using settlement dollars for opioid abatement and turning the company into an engine for good," says a statement on the company's website.

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