

# STOLEN ART



Bulletin 95-1

Lost and Stolen Art, Antiques and Collectibles

Page 1 of 2

## DISTRACTION THEFT

On February 9th, a man (suspect-1), posing as a customer, entered a Hollywood art gallery. He viewed the objects for sale and asked a few questions. After fifteen minutes, he left. He returned an hour later with a young woman (suspect-2). They said they were looking for a present for her grandmother and subsequently showed interest in candlesticks in the gallery. They picked out some candlesticks and went to the rear business office to view how the candlesticks would look displayed on furniture in the office. The furniture piece was out of view of the main gallery. While the young woman kept the manager busy, the man wandered off into the gallery section. However, a friend of the manager who was visiting at the time was in a position to view the man's movements. The young woman claimed she could not make up her mind. She said she would return with her aunt who would help her make a selection. She asked the manager to set aside the candlesticks she was looking at in the rear office. The young woman called near closing time and stated that she and her aunt would not be able to arrive at the gallery before closing and would therefore return the following day to make the purchase.

On February 10th, the young woman returned to the gallery with an older woman (suspect-3). They also brought a baby and a child about two years old. The manager was

alone. As they came in, the young woman hesitated for a fraction of a second, as if to draw the older woman's attention to an F. Grayson Sayre painting hanging on the wall nearby. The painting was the most expensive in the gallery. They all went to the rear office to again view the candlesticks on the furniture. The suspects kept the manager busy by talking about the candles, having her add up various dollar amounts and drawing her attention to the baby and small child. The older woman went into the gallery section and viewed the Sayre painting. The younger woman then asked the older woman to find an ATM machine and get some money. The older woman subsequently left with the children. While the manager was filling out a sales receipt, the phone rang so she went behind the desk (out of sight of the gallery section) to answer the phone. At this point, the young woman said she was going to get a donut from a shop across the street and would return shortly. Less than a minute later, the manager hung up the phone and entered the main gallery. She discovered the front door wide open and the Sayre painting missing from the wall.



95-0610347

2-1/95

SAYRE, F. Grayson  
*The Vagabond*  
 oil on canvas  
 36" x 30"  
 signed lower left  
 (two people walking  
 down a country road)

- **Suspect-1:** male Black, 5-8, 160, 28-34, medium complexion, earring left ear, possible mustache.
- **Suspect-2:** female Black, 5-2, 115, 20-24, light complexion, braided hair, approximately 4 months pregnant.
- **Suspect-3:** female Black, 5-4, 130, 40s, dark complexion.

## ADDITIONAL STOLEN ART



94-0829561

11-2/94

HARMON, Charles H.  
(1859-1936)  
*Bridal Veil Falls, Yosemite*  
oil on canvas  
22" x 17 3/4"  
signed lower right

WENDT, William  
(1865-1946)  
*Edge of the River*  
oil on board  
9 3/4" x 13 7/8"  
signed lower left



94-0829561

11-2/94