



STOLEN ART

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CHIEF OF POLICE



Theft of Fine Art and Sales of Fraudulent Art Matthew Taylor



Suspect **Matthew Taylor**, who has also used the name Matthew Taylor Nelson, was arrested on seven felony counts involving the theft of fine art and the fraudulent sale of altered art, made to appear as if it came from famous artists. Over 100 artworks were misrepresented as created by artists such as Monet, van Gogh, Rothko, Cassatt and Sargent. Several paintings, including one by Granville Redmond, were stolen from an L.A. art gallery and sold to private parties and another gallery.

Taylor posed as an independent art dealer visiting art galleries to obtain consignments of art to sell. After gaining the trust of a gallery owner, Taylor secreted paintings out of the gallery during business hours without the owner's knowledge.

Media coverage led to the recovery of two stolen artworks in L.A. and the sighting of a third in Florida. The three paintings disappeared from the same art gallery between 2004 and 2006 at times coinciding with visits by Taylor.

The third painting by artist Lucien Frank was spotted in the possession of Taylor in 2008 in Vero Beach, Florida. The current location of the \$20,000 painting is unknown.



Investigators are also attempting to identify the true artists and provenance of paintings depicted at the following link: <http://smu.gs/rlgtVX>
It appears that many of these paintings could have been purchased from legitimate art dealers, auction houses and galleries throughout the country before being altered and sold by Taylor.

Investigators would like to speak to anyone who has knowledge of the Frank painting as well as those who have bought or sold art through Matthew Taylor over the past decade. LAPD's Art Theft Detail can be contacted at (213) 486-6940 or by e-mail at: artcop@lapd.lacity.org. The FBI's Art Crime Team can be reached at (310) 477-6565.