HISTORY ARTS CULTURE

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Fake, Stolen – Sold!

There's a lot of money to be made from art – legally and illegally. Speculators invest in works of art in the hope they appreciate more quickly than property or shares. Experts say that the third largest illegal trade worldwide is in art, behind drugs and arms. Top forgers make a fortune, and many in the international art world turn a blind eye to fraud if it is profitable. Criminals steal works in order to demand a ransom from their owners.

Fake, Stolen – Sold! shows just how much criminal energy and human resourcefulness are devoted to making money from art – and how the police and judiciary, scientists and the media seek to put a stop to their game.

01 Great Masters, Easy Prey – Spectacular Art Thefts and Forgeries VoD SD

The list of spectacular raids on museums and galleries is a lengthy one. The cliché of the gentleman art thief has long been consigned to the realm of fiction. Art theft often involves violence. Crooks sometimes threaten to destroy paintings or sculptures if their demand for cash isn't met. Another misleading cliché is that of the forger as brilliant artist. In fact, forgers often make amateurish mistakes in their quest to make lots of money.

02 The Big Bluff – Lucrative Forged Art Scams VoD HD

German master forger Wolfgang Beltracchi had the art world fooled for 35 years. He specialized in recreating lost works by famous artists. He told his clients that the works came from the Jäger Collection. There was indeed a Herr Jäger, but he never had an art collection.

03 The "Spanish Master" – Magnificent Copies of Ancient Sculptures Vol M HD

The art world has dubbed him the "Spanish Master" – a forger active about two decades ago who created a series of 'antique' bronzes, which had many collectors, archeologists and art historians fooled. He has never been identified. It is not even clear if it was one individual or a whole team.

04 Real or Fake? – How Investigators are Catching On HD

Sometimes it's paper that's been made to look old using coffee or tea. Sometimes it's a substance in the paint that didn't exist when the original would have been created. Scientists have developed a variety of methods to unmask art forgers.

05 The Mystery of the Fake Mummy **HD**

A "Persian mummy" is discovered in Pakistan. The find turns out to be a fake, one that cost the life of a woman. Investigators set out to discover who the woman was, and who killed her.

06 Thieves in the Temple – Behind the Scenes of the International Art Market VoD HD

A thousand-year-old statue looted during the Cambodian civil war is to be auctioned at Sotheby's. The auction house deploys all the legal tricks in the book to prevent the artifact from being returned to Cambodia. But after a lengthy court battle Sotheby's relents, fearing damage to its reputation, and agrees to give the statue back.