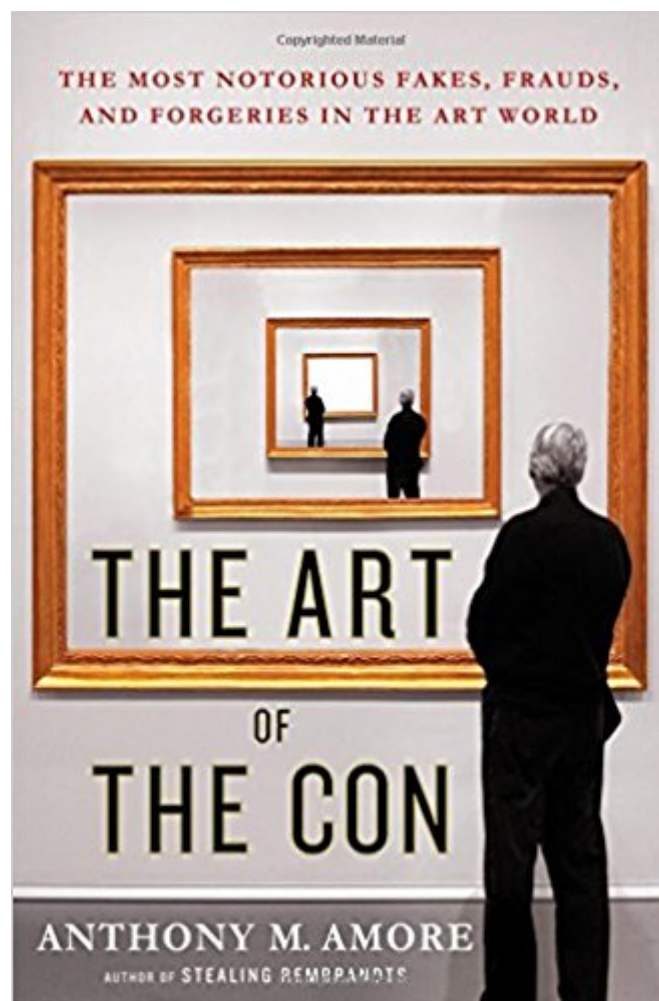




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The Art Of The Con: The Most Notorious Fakes, Frauds, And Forgeries In The Art World



Synopsis

Art scams are today so numerous that the specter of a lawsuit arising from a mistaken attribution has scared a number of experts away from the business of authentication and forgery, and with good reason. Art scams are increasingly convincing and involve incredible sums of money. The cons perpetrated by unscrupulous art dealers and their accomplices are proportionately elaborate. Anthony M. Amore's *The Art of the Con* tells the stories of some of history's most notorious yet untold cons. They involve stolen art hidden for decades; elaborate ruses that involve the Nazis and allegedly plundered art; the theft of a conceptual prototype from a well-known artist by his assistant to be used later to create copies; the use of online and television auction sites to scam buyers out of millions; and other confidence scams incredible not only for their boldness but more so because they actually worked. Using interviews and newly released court documents, *The Art of the Con* will also take the reader into the investigations that led to the capture of the con men, who oftentimes return back to the world of crime. For some, it's an irresistible urge because their innocent dupes all share something in common: they want to believe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“An engrossing read about brazen, artful scams.” — Kirkus

“Amore is privy to more information on the subject of forgeries than the average art collector or dealer, and he shares a number of those stories in this engrossing account... a bracing and highly informative assessment of a very real problem, sure to resonate with art fans and

curators alike. **“A riveting, fast-moving account of shameless fraudsters who wreak havoc on the art world. A must read!”** **Brian T. Kelly**, former Assistant United States Attorney **“The Art of the Con is must reading for any true-crime fan. Brazen museum thefts get all the headlines, but Anthony M. Amore makes it clear that the real money in art crime is to be made from forgeries, fakes, online auctions, laser printers and other 21st-century technologies. And Amore’s diverse, colorful crew of art-gallery grifters and scammers have been reaping the kind of ill-gotten gains that old-school criminals could only dream of. Highly recommended!”** **Howie Carr**, New York Times bestselling author of *THE BROTHERS BULGER* and *HITMAN* **“What is most fascinating about The Art of the Con is that you haven’t heard these stories before. The tales of these unknown scams are woven into a narrative that reads like a thriller. The attention to detail takes the reader inside the investigations and allows them to play armchair detective. Read this book!”** **Jon Leiberman**, radio and television host and author of *WHITEY ON TRIAL: SECRETS, CORRUPTION, AND THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH* **“It takes a lot to pull off an art world con. But it might take even more to tell the unvarnished story behind those swindles, and there’s no doubt that Anthony Amore has done it in this definitive page-turner. The Art of the Con is wonderfully investigated-and highly paced-and provides a jaw-hitting-the-floor examination of art world fraud.”** **Ulrich Boser**, author of *THE GARDNER HEIST: THE TRUE STORY OF THE WORLD’S LARGEST UNSOLVED ART THEFT* **“Not only is The Art of the Con a wild ride through a rogue’s gallery of colorful art forgers, entertainingly written by a master of prose. It is that. But it’s also an object lesson in how art is made, what makes art valuable, and how some of the smartest minds in the business could be suckered by deals that ultimately proved just too good to be true.”** **Michael Blanding**, author of *THE MAP THIEF: THE GRIPPING STORY OF AN ESTEEMED RARE-MAP DEALER WHO MADE MILLIONS STEALING PRICELESS MAPS* **“A fascinating account of some of the biggest scams that have taken place in the art world over the last century”** **ArtNet News**

ANTHONY M. AMORE is an expert in security matters and head of security and chief investigator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. He is the co-author of *Stealing Rembrandts*, which was a Wall Street Journal True Crime Best Seller. Before joining the Gardner Museum in 2005, Amore worked for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and was a Special Agent with the Federal Aviation Administration. He lives in Boston, MA.

This book walks through a series of anecdotes that show the reader the world of art forgery. Easy to read, the book moves quickly without sacrificing quality or detail. Very informative and well researched. Pro tip: if you read it on an iPad you can easily Google the artists and paintings mentioned. (I don't know if the paper version has pictures, the kindle one did not).

Really an interesting book about art forgeries.

Wonderful book! It's clear that the author is an expert, but he doesn't bore you with his knowledge. He has a way of engaging, drawing you into the story, that makes it an amazingly enjoyable read. I have given out 3 copies to friends and they can't stop thanking me. I can't recommend this book strongly enough. Bravo Mr. Amore! When's your next book coming out???

Not long winded. Surprisingly readable. Educational. Found the topic to be something I have more interest in reading about. Going to look for more to read on the matter.

anyone who appreciates arts will be enlightened about how prevalent fraud is in the art world. ancient and modern. Written in chapters describing different 'cases' mentioning familiar names, duped buyers, frantic famous galleries, astonished auction houses.

Every artist should buy this book. It will be worth your effort to see what can happen to your hard work. Not to mention some great ideas for forgery.

A well-written account of art theft cases. I have researched the subject for many years and still found many cases that I was not aware of in this book. Anthony does a great job chronicling the in's and out's of each theft. Definitely a page-turner!

A study on an industry of cons in art evaluation is fascinating. In an art world where determining price is unbelievably arbitrary this is a good journey through the absurdity of determining real from fake.

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