

STOLEN ART



DEALER'S TIP LEADS TO ARRESTS

On March 13, 1995, two defendants who sold an estimated \$100,000 in stolen property to a Santa Monica gallery specializing in Asian art, pled guilty to felony counts of receiving stolen property.

The gallery owner alerted the Art Theft Detail of the Los Angeles Police Department when he received a Stolen Art Bulletin describing a large collection of ivory carvings stolen from a storage facility in Canoga Park. The gallery owner had just received the ivory on consignment and had paid a cash deposit of \$10,000 to defendant Idilia Delcarmen Rivera. Rivera stated she acquired the ivory as collateral when she loaned money to a former employer who could not repay the loan. However, this story turned out to be a fabrication.

The detectives obtained a search warrant for Rivera's residence in Van Nuys and conducted a raid which resulted in the arrest of Rivera and the recovery of additional stolen ivory. Detectives also re-

covered the \$10,000 in cash belonging to the gallery which was returned to the owner. Under questioning, Rivera admitted to buying the ivory from a man named "Oscar" for a mere \$3,000. Oscar would not provide her with a receipt nor would he tell her where he had obtained the ivory. She fabricated a story to the gallery owner because she was afraid

the ivory was stolen and wanted to present a more plausible story to ensure the sale of the property.

A surveillance was conducted of Oscar Mauricio Francia which resulted in his arrest and the recovery of the last of the ivory taken in the

burglary. At the time of his arrest, Francia was already on bail for a similar crime involving receiving stolen property. It turned out that Francia had easy access to storage locations because he regularly bought property at auction at these facilities. It appears that he took advantage of his familiarity with these locations to also commit burglaries.



Requesting any information on . . .

1. **David Hockney** - watercolor - abstract with flowers and vase - 24" x 18". (94-0633451 • 8-3/94)
2. **J.D. Nini** - wall medallion - oval shaped baked clay relief image - profile of Catherine II of Russia - signed and dated (1771) - 12" x 12". (94-0633451 • 8-3/94)
3. **Yuri Yuroz** - watercolor on black museum paper - abstract of four men with a chair, table and cherubs - signed lower right "Yuroz" - 19 1/2" x 25 1/2". (94-0827929 • 10-1/94)
4. **Yuri Yuroz** - watercolor - abstract with man sitting in chair with a vase and a blue rose - signed "Yuroz" - 40" x 60". (94-0827929 • 10-1/94)

ADDITIONAL STOLEN ART



MARTIN, Fletcher
Bucking Bronco
painting - pastel
18" x 14"
signed lower right

95-0606186

1-2/95

VILLON, Jacques
(published 1927)
etching aquatint
15" x 19"
#75/200
name "Vincent" at top
signed "Villon" in pencil lower right



95-0606186

1-2/95