

# STOLEN ART



Bulletin 96-2

Lost and Stolen Art, Antiques and Collectibles

Page 1 of 2



96-0820808

8-2/96

HOCKNEY, David  
1984-86  
*An Image of Celia*  
lithograph  
on TGL handmade paper  
#6/10  
49" x 39"  
signed in pencil

## HOCKNEY BURGLARS

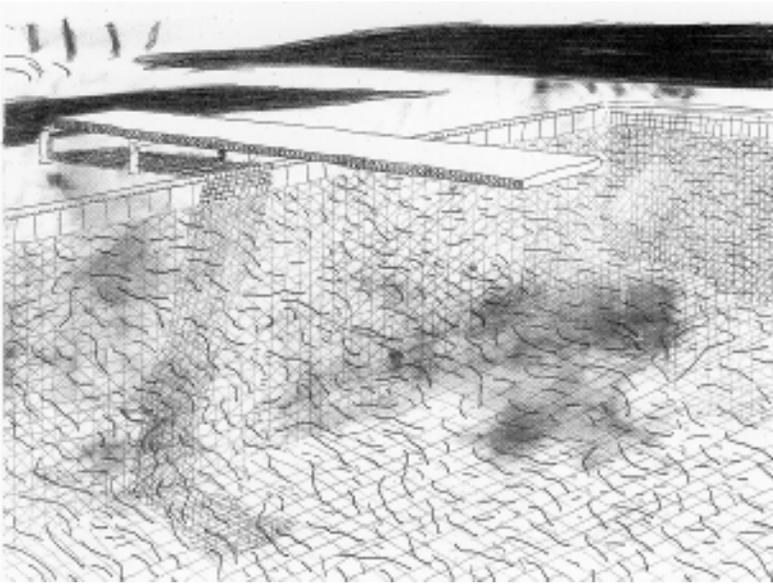
On August 10th, at approximately 3:30 in the morning, a burglary occurred at an art gallery in Brentwood. The suspects used a sledge hammer to smash the glass out of the front door of the business. Within minutes, the suspects took three David Hockney lithographs that were hanging in the gallery. They were selective in what they took, ignoring art of higher value by other artists. The gallery was burglarized in a similar manner eighteen months ago (see Bulletin 95-4). The suspects are believed to be three male Blacks, about 6 ft. tall, 185 lbs, 25-30 years old. They may be driving a white customized minivan.



96-0820808

8-2/96

HOCKNEY, David  
1991  
*Twelve Fifteen*  
lithograph  
#42/50  
44" x 57"  
signed in pencil lower right



HOCKNEY, David  
 1980  
*Lithograph of Water Made of Lines*  
 lithograph  
 #23/39  
 26" x 35"  
 signed in pencil lower right

96-0820808

8-2/96

## ART THIEVES CONVICTED

In March of this year, a housewife placed an ad in the L.A. Times offering two William A. Walker paintings for sale. A man phoned and identified himself as an art dealer wanting to view the paintings. A meeting was arranged at the victim's home at a time when her husband was usually home from work. However, the husband was delayed when the suspect arrived. The woman became uneasy when she realized the art dealer appeared to know nothing about art. She and her two small children were home alone with the suspect who was 6-1/2 ft. tall. She left the room for a moment and heard the front door close. Upon reaching the doorway she saw the man enter a getaway car driven by an accomplice. The car fled the scene at a high rate of speed along with the victim's two Walker oils.

The suspect and his girlfriend went to several galleries in the L.A. area in an attempt to quickly sell the stolen art. The "art dealer" now portrayed himself as a USC student selling family heirlooms to pay for his tuition. When this effort failed, they decided to sell the art at auction. The Art Theft Detail, with the assistance of employees at J.C. Ames Auctioneers, arrested Colletta Steen as she exited the auction. Alais Short was arrested a short time later during a search of a residence. A check of his background revealed he had prior arrests for attempt murder, robbery and theft.

Both suspects were convicted in Superior Court and Short is presently in state prison.

### Requesting any information on . . .

1. **Richard Diebenkorn** - etching aquatint - *Twelve* - #32/50 - 1984 - 34" x 43". (96-60116 • Santa Monica)
2. A collection of 68 **netsukes**. Photographs available. (96-0819387 • 7-4/96)
3. **James Hagamans** - oil on canvas - *Changing Pastures* - approx. 20" x 25". (96-0624896 • Hwd)
4. **Hyam Fink** - contemporary marble statues: (1) a woman's torso from neck to waist in carrara marble - 17" tall. (2) woman's torso from neck to hips in gray alabaster - 24" tall. (96-0519743 • 8-1/96)
5. Attempts to sell an **Andy Warhol** painting called *Perrier Fond Rose* depicting a rose colored Perrier bottle.
6. Any sales by art dealer Laurence "Larry" Groeger.

ANY INFORMATION,  
 PLEASE CONTACT:

**Detective Don Hrycyk - LAPD Art Theft Detail**

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