

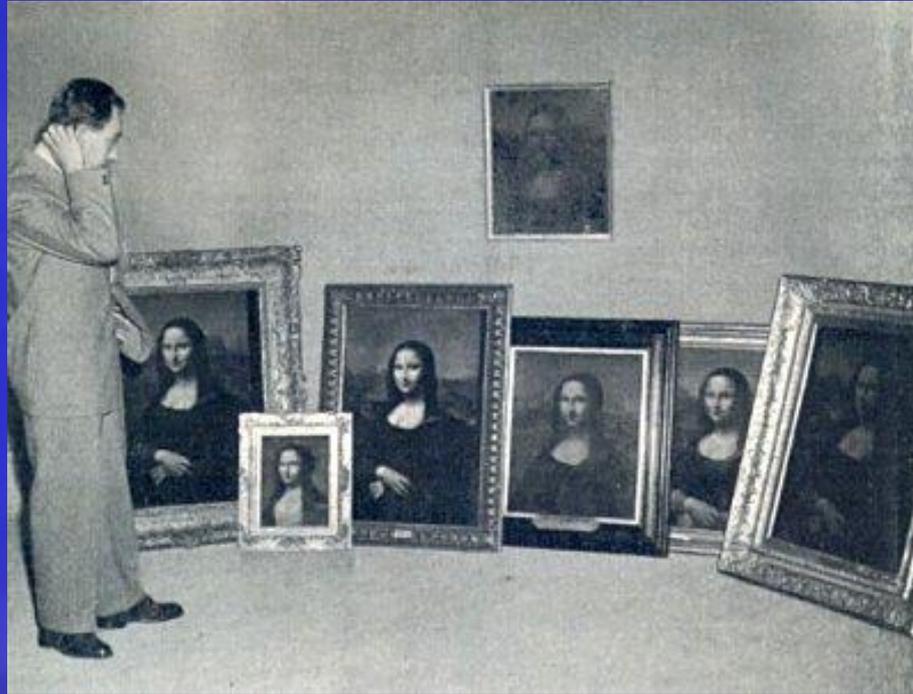
Art Forgery

If you were at a yard sale and came across a painting signed Picasso, how could you know that the painting was really created by Picasso?

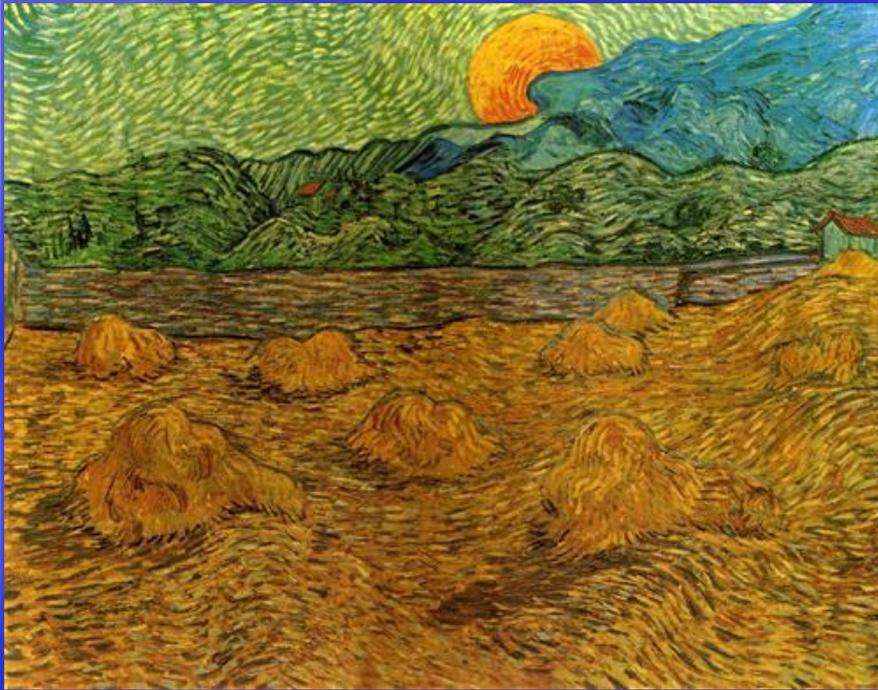
<http://www.intentodeceive.org/>



WHAT IS A FORGED WORK OF ART?



A copy of a work of art made in the exact manner of the original style.



Vincent Van Gogh



John Myatt

An original painting done that has many of the characteristics of another artist's work to pass it off as an original.

John Myatt is a famous forger-who sold over 200 forged works of art. After turning on his partner, He spent only 4 months in prison. He now sells his marked forgeries for a lot of money,

SPOT THE FAKE



Read the description that I have provided for you about the real painting. Annotate the text as you read. Underline any details you think help determine which painting is real. Circle any words you do not know or understand. Try to use context to determine the meaning. Take a minute to discuss with your table. Designate one person from your table to share your group's thoughts on which one you think is real and which is the fake.

WHY DO ARTISTS FORGE PAINTINGS?

Some artists forge works just for the thrill of deceiving collectors, experts, and museums, but in most cases....

ITS ALL ABOUT MONEY



- Dutch artist Han van Meegeren, For a while he got away with selling the detailed forgeries for astounding prices, reaching the equivalent of **\$60 million** for six fake Vermeer's sold on the Dutch market. He was later arrested for treason in dealings with Nazi officers. His offense could have gotten him the death sentence.
- Tatiana Khan, an L.A. based art dealer who owns Chateau Allegre gallery, was sued in 2013 after reportedly telling an artist friend that one of her Picasso's had been stolen and paid her \$1,000 to recreate the work. Kahn then turned around and sold the duplicated piece for an astounding **\$2 million** to a naive buyer.
- Sean Greenhalgh, along with his mother Olive, 83, and father George, 84, forged sculptures, paintings, and rare artifacts for nearly two decades. The Greenhalgh's art forgeries produced and sold over the previous seventeen years were worth approximately **\$11 million.**
- A German scamster sold over 200 fake Alberto Giacometti sculptures, some out of his car. Giacometti's "pointing man" sculpture sold for \$141,000,000.



REAL OR FAKE? Solving the Mystery

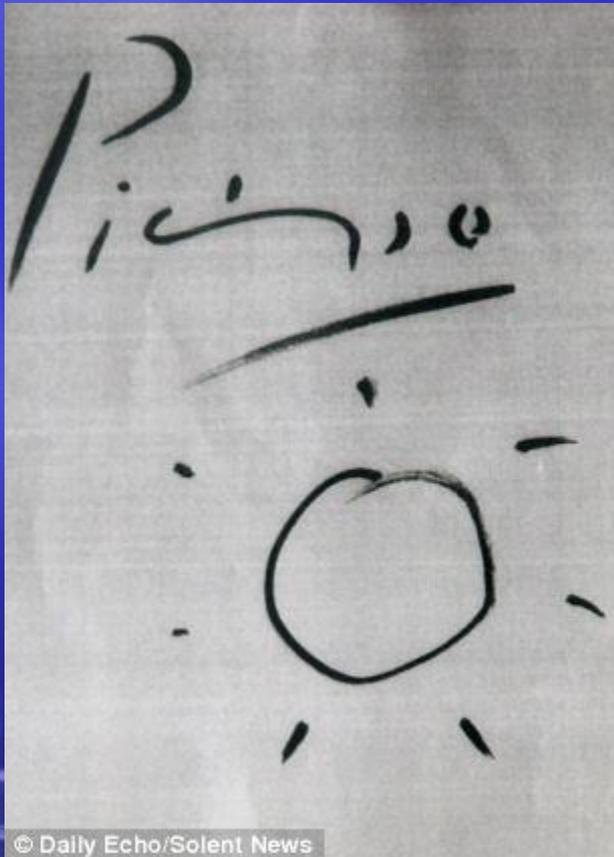
- How can a real work of art be determined?
 - Research
 - Observation of the Physical Work
 - Stylistic Consistencies
 - Scientific Tests

RESEARCH: Do Your Homework



- Look up the artist
- Is the work consistent with the time period and materials that were used?
- Does it fit the artist's subject matter and style?
- Does the signature match?

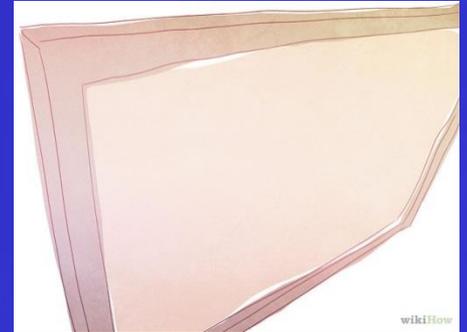
FORGED VS REAL PICASSO SIGNATURES



OBSERVATION OF THE PHYSICAL WORK

- Look at the front, back, and frame of a work of art:

- Check for Aging
- Dirt, Dust, Faded Colors
- Is the material used old or new?
- Look for obvious signs
- If it is stapled to the frame, it can't be a painting from the 1800s
- Look for brush bristles (newer brushes can leave bristles stuck in the paint)



Aged Painting Versus Freshly Painted



STYLISTIC CONSISTENCIES

- Paint Quality-Different types of paints have different textures

Oils



Watercolor



Acrylic



Tempera



ARE THE FIGURES OR IMAGES CONSISTENT WITH THE ARTISTS STYLE?



SCIENTIFIC TESTS

Artists were among the first chemists because they had to create their own pigments out of natural materials and other compounds. They had to find ways for the pigment to adhere to a surface to create works of art.



CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

- Used to determine the chemical make up of the colors present. Certain colors did not come to exist until certain times in history.

 Burnt Sienna and Raw Umber (Browns) have been used since ancient times because they are formed from natural materials.

- Alizarin Crimson (Red-from a plant), Cadmiums (Yellow, Orange, Red- Metal), and Cerulean Blue (Metal) were developed in the 19th century.

 Hansa Yellow (Organic Compound) and Phthalocynine Blue (Crystalline-Synthetic) weren't developed until the 1930s.

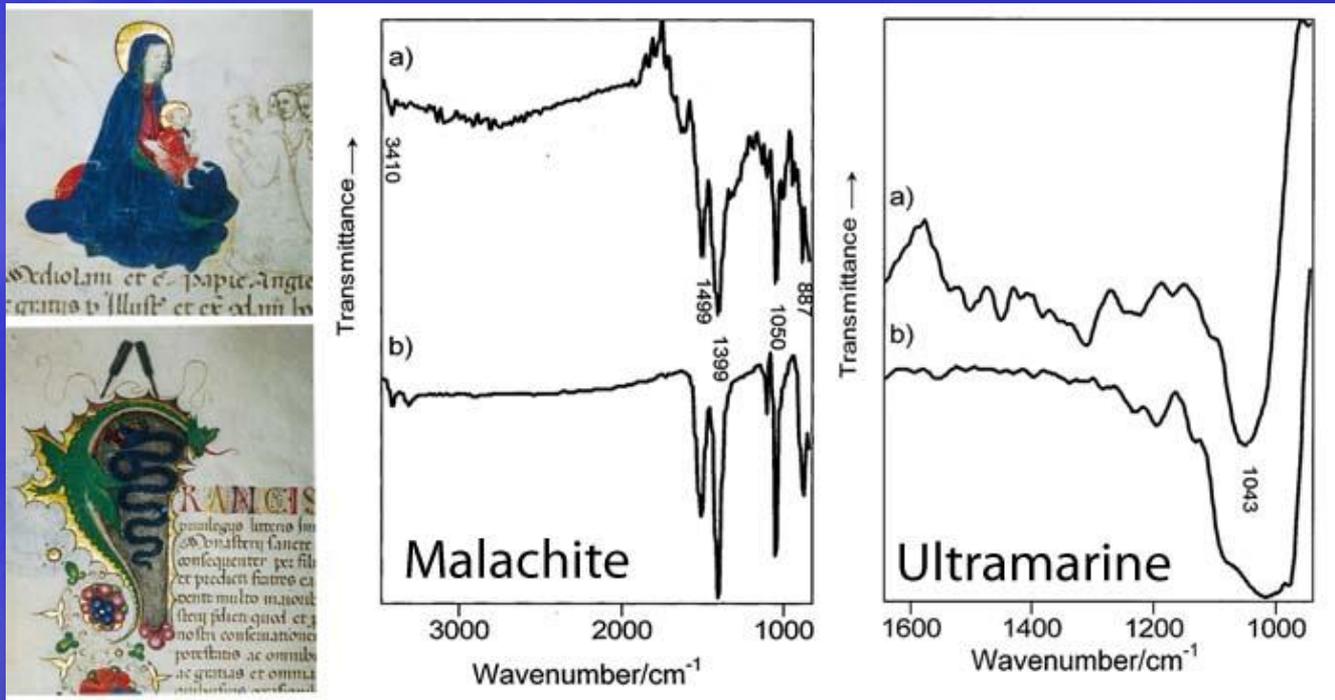


ULTRA VIOLET & DNA TESTS

- Tests for florescent paint. Modern paints add florescent additives to their paint, which react to UV (black) light.
- DNA tests, in select cases, can be done to detect human DNA within the painting. Many artists would lick their paint brushes to keep their shape, which could provide DNA to the painting. (There are rumors Van Gogh went crazy because of licking his paint brushes.)



SPECTROSCOPY



Electromagnetic radiation is applied to the substances in a work of art to record their chemical composition. The substances can be compared for consistency with other works by the same artist and artists of the time period.

X-RAYS

- Artists through history have often used lead based pigments that would show up on x-rays.
- X-Rays can reveal paintings that exist underneath the surface because artists would paint over old paintings.



Your Assignment:

- You will choose a famous painting by a famous artist.
- You will research the artwork and learn all about the artist.
- You learn the skills of art criticism and critique the work of art.
- You will write a 1 to 2 page paper on all that you have learned. I will provide you with a basic format for the paper.
- Lastly you will learn how to create a copy of your chosen painting.
- You will learn how to grid a work of art to help you draw it precisely.
- You will paint the painting doing your best to replicate it the colors exactly.

Samples of Student Work





