



PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE TRUE VALUE OF ART

CRIMES AGAINST ART: INTERNATIONAL ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE LAW
BONNIE CZEGLEDI, LL.B.

FROM THE ART WORLD TO THE UNDERWORLD DISCOVER THE HIGH COST OF STOLEN ART

According to the FBI, art crime represents the third highest grossing criminal enterprise worldwide, behind only drugs and arms trafficking. Yet most countries apply few resources to its prevention or detection because it is often dismissed as a victimless crime.

Crimes Against Art: International Art and Cultural Heritage Law examines the cultural, historical, and economic impact of art crimes such as theft, forgery, fakes, war looting, and archaeological looting.

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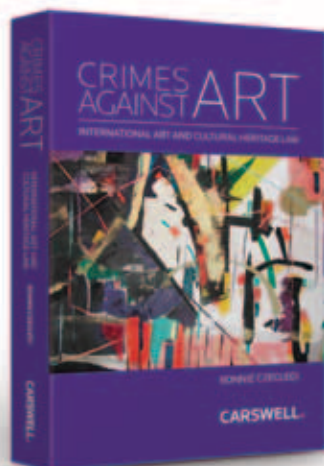
BONNIE CZEGLEDI, LL.B.

Author Bonnie Czegledi reviews major art and antiquities crimes from the past century, including heists from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Boston's Isabella Gardner Museum, looting during World War II and the Iraqi-wars, forgeries committed by Han van Meegeren and the Greenhalgh family, and the underwater salvaging of the *RMS Titanic*. These and many other cases offer new insight into the motives of thieves, the legal and ethical challenges of recovery and restitution, and the devastating historical and cultural impact of art crime. Czegledi evaluates current international treaties and conventions designed to protect cultural property and offers suggestions to address and prevent art crime – from exercising collective due diligence in buying, selling, loaning, collecting and donating art to reforming legislation and increasing criminal prosecutions.

Ultimately, **Crimes Against Art** is a call-to-action for a collective commitment to protect and preserve cultural property, our most precious non-renewable resource.

EXPERT INSIGHT INTO CURRENT ISSUES IN ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE LAW

- Covers 29 major art heists of the past century, including The *Mona Lisa*, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Gardner Museum, and Picasso's Sketchbook
- Provides due diligence checklists for purchasing art and best practices to follow if you are the victim of art theft
- Reviews eight of the most important forgery cases – Han van Meegeren, Eric Hebborn, Elmyr de Hory, Tom Keating, David Stein, John Drewe, and John Myatt, Ely Sakhai, and The Greenhalgh Family
- Examines the ongoing case of the *RMS Titanic* to illustrate the legal and practical issues involved in salvaging submerged cultural property
- Provides a historical overview of Holocaust-era looting and presents the current legal and ethical issues involved in restitution



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bonnie Czegledi, LL.B. is an international art and cultural heritage lawyer and a multi-media visual artist who practices in Toronto.

She represents clients on issues concerning the borrowing and lending of art exhibitions and on international art disputes concerning title, provenance and authentication. As a visual artist, her vibrant abstracts have been shown in Canada and France and featured in art and architectural publications.

A passionate art advocate, Czegledi lectures worldwide on stolen art, import/export compliance, and due diligence in the acquisition of artwork. She is also a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) in Paris, an organization with a mandate to preserve cultural artifacts and artwork.

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