

Forged Works of Contemporary Art Seized



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European Law Forum: Prevention • Investigation • Prosecution

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News

At the beginning of November 2024, a long-running investigation being conducted by Italian, Belgian, French, and Spanish authorities, supported by Eurojust, dismantled a [European forgery network](#) that had counterfeited contemporary art, including works by famous artists such as Banksy, Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Francis Bacon, Wassily Kandinsky, Gustav Klimt, Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, and Salvador Dalí. The network had faked more than 2,000 works of art, along with forged certificates and stamps of authenticity, in order to sell them at several complicit auction houses in Italy. Following the take-down, 38 people were charged with conspiracy to forge and deal in contemporary art. Had the pieces been auctioned, the estimated economic damage would have been around €200 million. Eurojust supported the operation *inter alia* by coordinating European Investigation Orders against suspects in Spain, France, and Belgium.

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Published in
2024, Vol. 19(3) euclid

ISSN: 1862-6947

<https://euclid.eu>



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euclid is the leading journal which regularly informs about current developments in European criminal and “criministrative” law.

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The project is co-financed by the [Union Anti-Fraud Programme \(UAFP\)](#), managed by the [European Anti-Fraud Office \(OLAF\)](#).



**Co-funded by
the European Union**