

The Case of the Mislabeled Masterpieces

Detective Arthur "Art" N. Thusiast walked up to the open trunk of the Jaguar XK, which was surrounded by Cincinnati police officers.

"Nice car," he remarked to Sergeant Queen.

"It's a real beauty, all right," she replied. "But what's inside is probably more up your alley."

Queen pointed to the six framed canvases, neatly wrapped in see-through plastic, that were stacked inside the roomy trunk. "Looks like a case of art theft to me," she said, "but I'm no expert."

"Art isn't just for experts," replied the detective, surveying each canvas in turn. "It's for everyone. And these aren't masterpieces: they're forgeries."

"Hey! I didn't forge nothin'!" yelled a short, weaselly man, presumably the car's owner, from within his own knot of officers. "These is original reproductions of mine! I painted'em myself! I happen to be an art conno-sewer! I love Cincinnati's great museums, and there ain't no crime in that!"

"How do you know these aren't the originals, stolen from the Taft and the Cincinnati Art Museum?" demanded Queen, ignoring the suspect's outburst.

"First of all," said Arthur, "**although the artist on each label is correct, one word in each famous painting's title is wrong.**"

"That could have been an attempt to trick us," grumbled Queen.

"Also," said Arthur, "**One element in each painting** isn't present in the original."

"He could have painted over them," suggested Queen. "This feels wrong. All these masterpieces in one place? It can't be just a coincidence."

"Oh, it's not," declared Arthur. "One of them is, in fact, stolen!"

"It's a lie!" declared the weaselly man, now visibly sweating. "You can't prove nothin'!"

Sergeant Queen was looking from one painting to another to another. "I don't see how you can tell," she said to Arthur. "**Which one is stolen?**"

To figure out which masterpiece is stolen, follow these steps:

- 1) Find the incorrect word in each painting's title. Put the correct word in the blank below it. All six paintings are from the collections of the Taft Museum of Art or the Cincinnati Art Museum. Googling is allowed!
- 2) Find the element in each painting that isn't present in the original. Each of these elements has a number on it.
- 3) Take that number letter of the correct word and enter it in the corresponding square in the central grid. Reading the letters together will identify the stolen masterpiece.

For example, the painting on this page is the *Mona Lisa*, not *Hello, Lisa*. So you'd write "MONA" in the blank below it. In the original, she's not wearing sunglasses, so that's the added element. The sunglasses are labeled with a "4," so you'd take the fourth letter of MONA, or "A." (This example is not part of the puzzle.)



Leonardo Da Vinci, "Hello, Lisa"

Corrected word: MONA

**Click the button below when you think you have the answer.
Be ready to enter the password!**



Amedeo Modigliani, "Max Headroom"
Corrected word: _____



Vincent Van Gogh, "Forest with Two Figures"
Corrected word: _____



James McNeill Whistler, "Playin' the Piano"
Corrected word: _____



Mary Cassatt, "Toddler in Dark Blue Suit, Looking Over His Mother's Shoulder"
Corrected word: _____



Frank Duveneck, "The Paper Boy"
Corrected word: _____



Rembrandt, "Portrait of a Man Drinking from His Chair"
Corrected word: _____
