

Breaking News: Art Theft in Oviedo

Teacher's

Oviedo, Asturias. A daring art 1. **heist** has left authorities baffled after a priceless 17th-century **altarpiece** was stolen from the venerable San Tirso El Real Church in Oviedo's historic center.

The theft, which occurred under the cover of last night's heavy rain, has sent shockwaves through the local community and the art world alike.

The altarpiece, a Baroque 2. **masterpiece** attributed to the 3. **renowned** sculptor Alonso Cano, is valued at an estimated two million dollars.

According to police reports, the thieves 4 **bypassed** the church's sophisticated security system, leaving no signs of forced entry.

Investigators are currently focusing on the possibility of an inside job, given the intricate knowledge of the building's layout required to execute such a precise operation.

"This is a devastating loss for our cultural 5. **heritage**," stated Elena Fernández, the regional Minister of Culture, in a press conference this morning.

"We are committed to working tirelessly with law enforcement to recover this invaluable piece and bring those responsible to justice."

6. **Eyewitnesses** report seeing a dark van speeding away from the vicinity of the church shortly before the theft was discovered. However, details remain scarce, and authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward.

The incident has 7. **sparked** intense debate among locals regarding the security measures in place to protect Asturias's rich artistic 8. **legacy**. Many are questioning how such a significant work of art could be stolen from a heavily guarded location. This crime comes at a particularly sensitive time, as Oviedo prepares to host the annual Art and Heritage Festival next month, an event expected to 9. **draw** thousands of international visitors.

The theft has cast a shadow over the upcoming celebration, raising concerns about the 10. **vulnerability** of other historical sites in the region.

As the investigation continues, art experts are expressing fears that the altarpiece may be transported out of the country, making its recovery even more challenging. The Guardia Civil has issued an international alert, collaborating with Interpol to track down the stolen artwork.

This story is developing, and further updates will be provided as they become available. Students are encouraged to discuss the implications of this crime on local heritage protection and the international art market.

1. An extremely valuable religious artwork dating back to the 17th century vanished from a well-known church in Oviedo's old town.
 - **Answer:** True
 - **Reference:** "...a priceless 17th-century altarpiece was stolen from the venerable San Tirso El Real Church in Oviedo's historic center."
2. The theft took place during clear weather conditions the previous night.
 - **Answer:** False
 - **Reference:** "The theft, which occurred under the cover of last night's heavy rain..."
3. The missing altarpiece, identified as a Baroque work by Alonso Cano, has an estimated value of two million euros.
 - **Answer:** False
 - **Reference:** "...is valued at an estimated two million dollars." (The currency is incorrect in the statement).
4. The criminals gained access to the church by breaking down the main entrance.
 - **Answer:** False
 - **Reference:** "...leaving no signs of forced entry."
5. Investigators believe the thieves must have had detailed knowledge about the church's layout, suggesting potential help from an insider.
 - **Answer:** True
 - **Reference:** "Investigators are currently focusing on the possibility of an inside job, given the intricate knowledge of the building's layout required..."
6. The regional Minister of Culture, Elena Fernández, personally discovered the theft this morning.
 - **Answer:** Not Stated

- **Reference:** The text states she gave a press conference this morning, but not that she discovered the theft.
7. Witnesses provided a detailed description of the driver of a dark van seen leaving the church area quickly.
- **Answer:** Not Stated
 - **Reference:** "Eyewitnesses report seeing a dark van speeding away... However, details remain scarce..." (It doesn't mention a description of the driver).
8. The local population is engaged in conversations about whether security for Asturias's artistic treasures is sufficient.
- **Answer:** True
 - **Reference:** "The incident has sparked intense debate among locals regarding the security measures in place to protect Asturias's rich artistic legacy."
9. The upcoming Art and Heritage Festival in Oviedo has been postponed indefinitely due to the robbery.
- **Answer:** false
 - **Reference:** The text says the theft "cast a shadow over the upcoming celebration" and raised concerns, but doesn't state it has been postponed or cancelled.
10. International police agencies are now involved in the effort to locate the stolen artwork, amid worries it might be taken abroad.
- **Answer:** True
 - **Reference:** "...art experts are expressing fears that the altarpiece may be transported out of the country... The Guardia Civil has issued an international alert, collaborating with Interpol to track down the stolen artwork."

STUDENT'S **Breaking News: Art Theft in Oviedo**

Exercise 1. You will listen to a piece of news about an art theft in Oviedo, Spain. You have been given a list of 10 words in Spanish (see below). Your task is to listen carefully to the English audio and identify the English word.

1. Robo (o Atraco): _____ (not theft)
2. Retablo: _____
3. Renombrado, famoso: _____
4. Eludido, evitado _____
5. Patrimonio cultural: _____
6. Testigos presenciales _____
7. Generar (interés) _____
8. Legado: _____
9. Atraer (atención) _____
10. Vulnerabilidad: _____

Exercise 2. Listen again and decide whether the following statements are True, False (justify your answer) or Not Stated.

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2. The theft took place during clear weather conditions the previous night.
3. The missing altarpiece, identified as a Baroque work by Alonso Cano, has an estimated value of two million euros.
4. The criminals gained access to the church by breaking down the main entrance.
5. Investigators believe the thieves must have had detailed knowledge about the church's layout, suggesting potential help from an insider.
6. The regional Minister of Culture, Elena Fernández, personally discovered the theft this morning.
7. Witnesses provided a detailed description of the driver of a dark van seen
8. The local population is engaged in conversations about whether security for Asturias's artistic treasures is sufficient.
9. The upcoming Art and Heritage Festival in Oviedo has been postponed indefinitely due to the robbery.
10. International police agencies are now involved in the effort to locate the stolen artwork, amid worries it might be taken abroad.