‘Working Together’

Intelligence led security in the cultural sector

Vernon Rapley
The story of an ancient artefact

I spent 24 years as a detective, at New Scotland Yard, London.

From 2001-2010, I headed the Art & Antiques Unit. Investigating all forms of art crime.

I am now the head of Security, Safety and Visitor Services at the V&A in London. I am also the Sector Lead for UK Museums and...
Introduction

What constitutes good security?

My experience of crime in the sector.

Sharing intelligence and working together
Museum Security

3,300,000 visitors a year
2,233,293 objects in collection (60,039 on display)
809 archival collections (658 cubic meters)

1,000 CCTV cameras
3,000 object alarms
80 Security guards and 120 Gallery staff

Internal Security Management Team
Daily risk assessments
Dynamic security response
Art Crime: Who, what, when, where, why and how!

Art Criminals do not look or behave in the way that are depicted by ‘Hollywood’. They are common thieves you use art as a means to make money or fund other criminal endeavours.
Some forms of Art Crime Explored.

Theft, Burglary, Robbery. Insider and stranger attack.

Protest, Criminal Damage, Promotion, Artistic statement or attention seeking.

Fakes, Forgeries and fraud.

False provenance and archive damage.
Organised Crime?

Art crime is used by Organised Criminal Networks.

They are involved in other criminality.

To an extent they can be opportunistic.

History has linked great art thefts to Serious Organised crime syndicates.
Criminal Network Case Study
Case Study

The networks often use, common thieves and burglars to commit the crimes.

The thieves have no specialist knowledge.

Stolen art is worth: a) the reward b) 7-10% Market value, dependant on the commodity.
Gallery Criminal v Library Criminal

- Size and structure of criminal network
- Expert knowledge
- Access
- Disposal method
- Criminal benefit
First Stage of Working Together

- London Museum Security Group
- ArtBEAT
- Art Market Forum
- Volunteers
- Joint Exhibitions
Second Stage of Working Together

- National Museum Security Group (NMSG)
- Cross-sector Safety & Security Communications (CSSC)
- International links?
UK Museum Network

Police, Government, Intelligence, etc

CSSC

ISL

NMSA

A&A

NMSG
National Museum Security Group (UK) provides an immediate and secure means for security teams from cultural organisations across the UK to share intelligence and communicate with each other. They aim to reduce crime at their venues and reduce the fear of crime for their visitors. A highly trained team is able to share images of criminal suspects and help victims of crime by providing immediate assistance and online communication with the police.

Securing national heritage

The group members have within their collections many items of significant national and international importance. Most of us are committed to providing public access to our collections, whilst retaining the responsibility to keep the objects safe and secure. The National Museum Security Group (UK) provides a communications link for security professionals to share images, enabling a fast and effective response to any incident, by sharing intelligence with our members in this way, we are able to identify emerging threats and adjust our security responses appropriately.
Victor Batalha > The National Museum Security Group

Suspected Ticket tout selling Exhibition tickets on the V&A premises. The Gentleman in question has been seen in the museum on two occasions. First occasion was walking up and down the entrance to the Hollywood Exhibition, the following day was seen walking up and down the queue for ticket sales in our main entrance. On this occasion he spoke to three female visitors who then left the queue and walked with the suspect towards the exhibition entrance. If a an image can be found we will post it.

add comment

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Control Room > The National Museum Security Group

Victoria and Albert Museum has shared the following image from incident F2536

Incident type: Other

Name: Not Known

Details:

- gender: male
- ethnicity: Arabic, Egyptian or Maghreb

Victor Batalha - 15 days ago

This gentleman is suspected of stealing a poppy donations box from the Information desk at the V&A.
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