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Art forgery

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Introduction



Works of art have been counterfeited as long as they have been collected.



The gap between supply and demand is increased by the constantly growing number of works of art which are finding permanent homes in public museums.



Every category of objects suitable for collection was or can be a subject to forgery;



These objects are notoriously forged which for various reasons are most fashionable in a particular era;



Where art collecting included contemporary work as well as that of the past, modern works were forged along with the old masters.





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Fake Banksy artworks that were sized by police are show in Rome in this handout image provided by the Italian Culture Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024. (AP Photo/Italian Culture Ministry, HOGP)

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Fake modern and contemporary artworks that were sized by police are show in Rome in this handout image provided by the Italian Culture Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024. (AP Photo/Italian Culture Ministry, HOGP)

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A fake Amedeo Modigliano drawing that was seized by police is shown in Rome in this handout image provided by the Italian Culture Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024. (AP Photo/Italian Culture Ministry, HOGP)

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Fake modern and contemporary artworks that were seized by police are shown in Rome in this handout image provided by the Italian Culture Ministry on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024. (AP Photo/Italian Culture Ministry, HOGP)

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Basic terms for art forgery



authenticity



copy



replica



fake

Authenticity

- Term used to describe the qualities of an original work of art as opposed to a reproduction.





Copy


Non-fraudulent manual repetition of another work of art.

Replica

Copy of a work of art made by the same artist who created the original, by the pupil or assistant under his or her supervision or by different hand completely

Pastiche

a piece of art, music, literature, etc. that intentionally copies the style of someone else's work or is intentionally in various styles, or the practice of making art in either of these way





Hekking's Mona Lisa

Mona Lisa and its copy done by one of da Vinci's students



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P.P. Rubens, *Rainbow landscape*

P.P. Rubens workshop, *Rainbow landscape* (workshop replica)





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Fake

A painting, sculpture or any product of artistic character may be called a forgery if it has been made with the intention of passing it off as the work of a different hand or of a different period.



Types of forgery

Copies and alterations made with fraudulent intent fall into four main categories:

- 1) a whole new work in imitation of something else.
 - 2) an object that has been altered such that it appears to be something else, usually more valuable.
 - 3) a genuine object that has been deceptively restored.
- 

Fake provenance

Antiquities can be given false provenances for a variety of reasons, including increasing their value or interest, and enabling illegally obtained material to be disposed of more easily.

Another consideration is that of legality.

Forgeries are often accompanied by false documentation.





Art forgers —
most common
motives

financial reward

revenge on art
critics

first stage of art theft
or illicit trafficking





Biggest art forgery of the modern times
- Wolfgang and Helene Beltracchi



Helene Beltracchi as
her grandmother

Max Ernst's
forgery by
Beltracchi



Campendonk's
forgery by
Beltracchi



An abstract painting featuring a complex, layered composition. The upper portion is dominated by warm, earthy tones of ochre, terracotta, and brown, with swirling, organic patterns that suggest a landscape or perhaps a map. Below this, a series of vertical, textured bands in shades of green, grey, and white create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a forest or a series of architectural columns. The overall effect is one of rich, tactile detail and vibrant color contrast.

Beltracchi's
own painting



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Christ and the Adulteress, (c) Tim Koster, Instituut Collectie Nederland, Rijswijk-Amsterdam













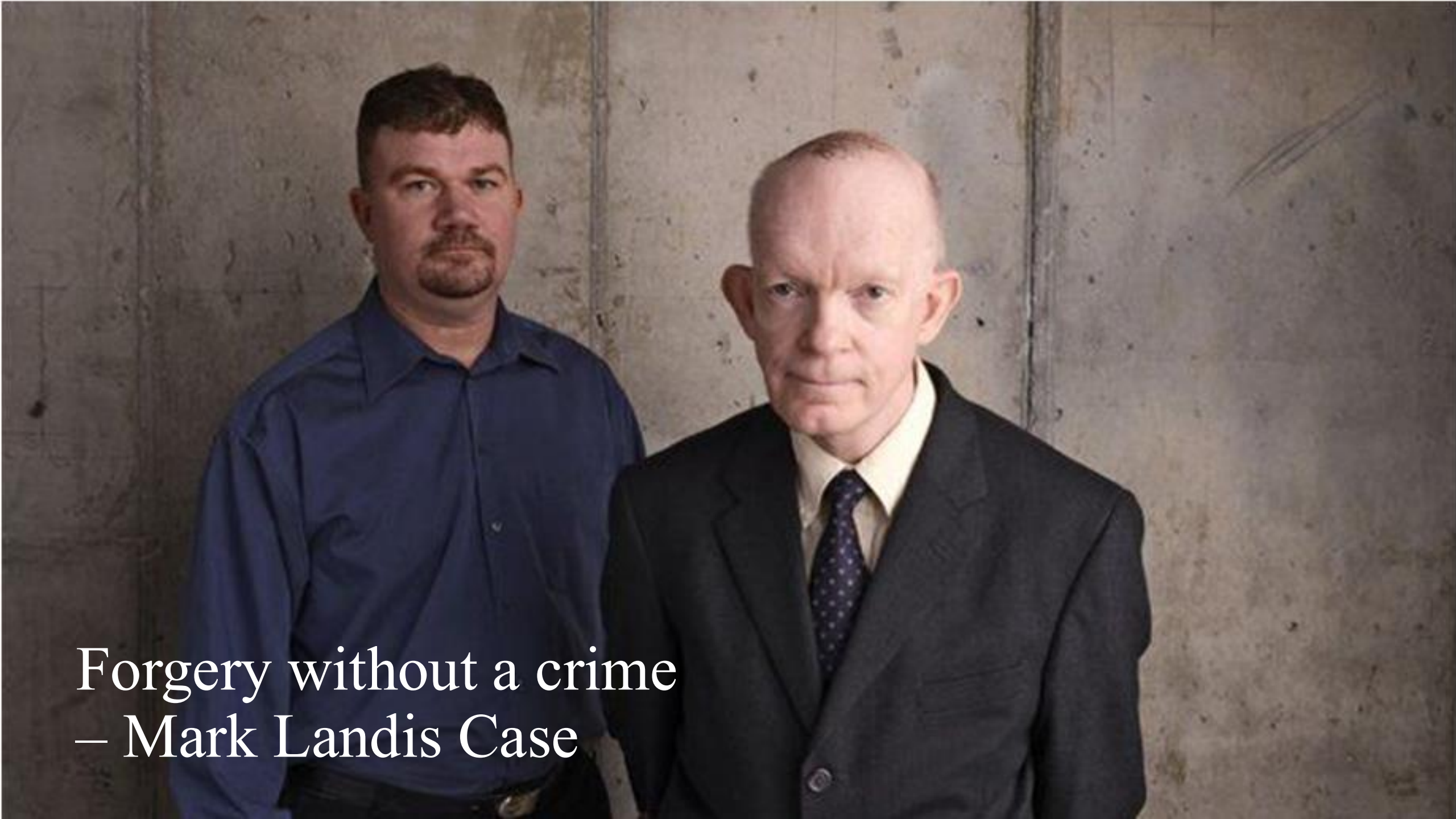


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Forgery without a crime
– Mark Landis Case

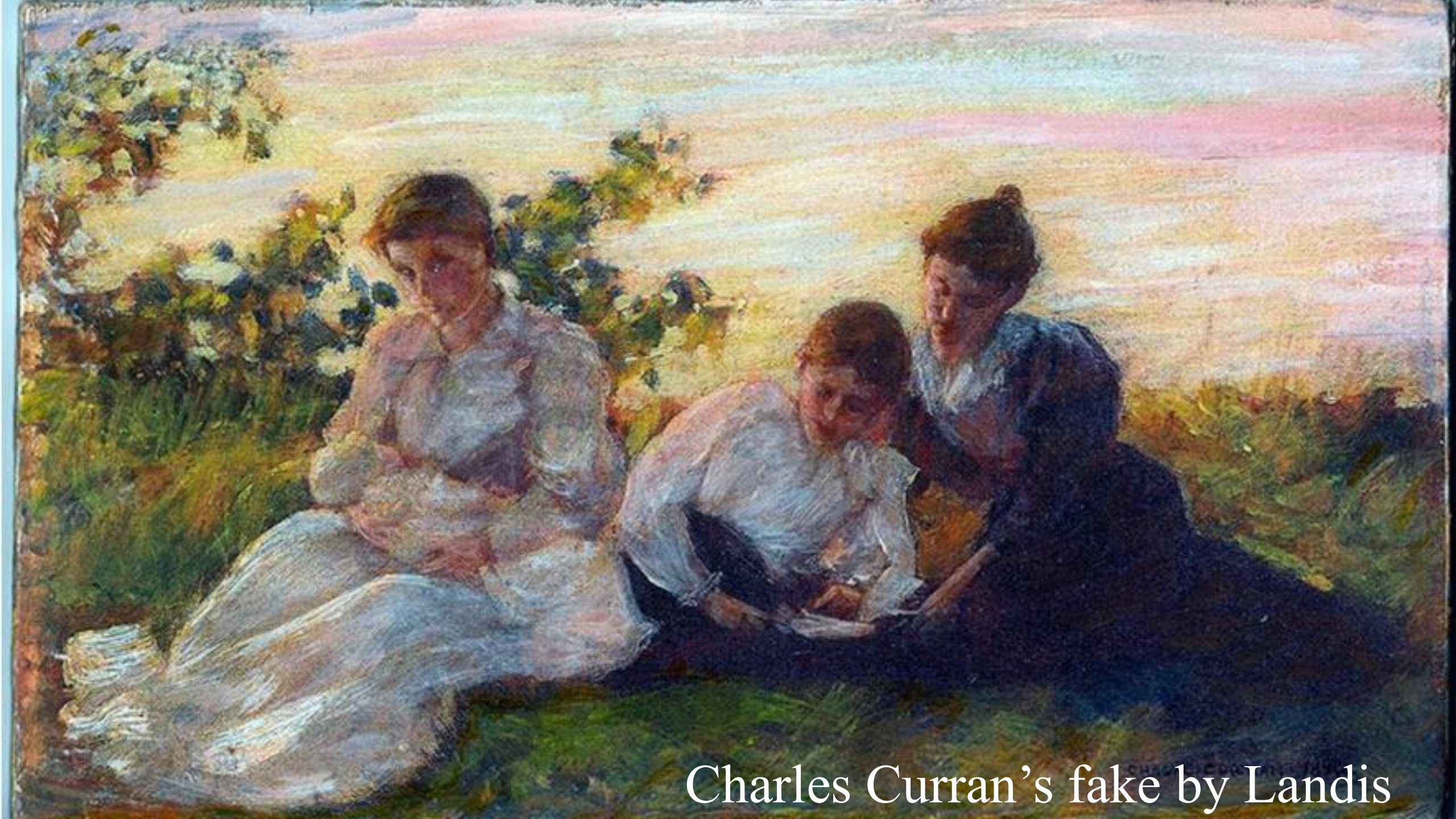




Signac's
original



Lindis's fake



Charles Curran's fake by Landis