

There are Wolves. Luckily, there are Sheepdogs.

A brilliant technological approach to cutting crime
by depriving hundreds of millions of dollars for evil endeavors

There are Wolves.

There are Sheep.

Luckily, there are Sheepdogs.

The sheepdog allegory has been around since medieval times. Law enforcement has taken, what appears, for the most part, watching over the innocent and protecting them from evildoers for centuries. Until very recently, beginning in the last 50 years, technology has risen exponentially in aggressive support of the difficult mission of law enforcement.

A quotation from the President's Crime Commission in 1967 illustrates how the police at times have lagged behind other sectors in reaping the benefits of technology: – The police, with crime laboratories and radio networks, made early use of technology, but most police departments could have been equipped 30 or 40 years ago as well as they are today.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would have been proud. The popular fiction writer and author of Sherlock Holmes mysteries was also a man of science. Though his life as a doctor floundered, his intuitive scientific insights transferred into his captivating stories that heralded him one of the highest paid, successful authors of his time.

Holmes' nemesis, professor Moriarty, was obsessed with never-ending schemes to deceive, steal and create havoc. Those traits have become most lucrative through more cunning, sophisticated methods than even imagined in the art world. The extent of attention to finite details when faking a fine 19th century French oil painting goes as far as even wedging a small torn, century-old scrap of period French newsprint as lost packing material stuck to the back frame, just to guild the Lilly of faux authenticity.

The trade in stolen and fake art is the third most lucrative criminal enterprise next to guns and drugs worldwide. Stolen art supports terrorism as well. Stealing art, then hoodwinking with almost imperceptibly fantastic reproductions appear a hallmark of today's felonious minds. It is now believed that possibly half of the paintings on the market are fakes. This sophistication has now met its match. The stolen Mona Lisa in 1911 promulgated over a dozen fakes, claiming to be the "found" missing original. Most were not very good yet some were sophisticated in reproduction.

Some forgery work is astonishing. But then again, the brilliance of the sheepdogs of science coupled with art-world Savoir faire, changes the playing field through the use of infrared mass spectrometry, chromatography, reflectography and newest innovations the FBI rarely sees. Setting the standard for the science of art authentication for the purpose of not only cracking cases but protecting the art world in sales, ownership and forgeries is San Diego based; a brain-trust of acute scientific discipline and academically applied innovation.

With all the new, innovative engineering and tech companies start-ups in San Diego, this organization may stand as the gold standard, as a one-stop resource of cutting edge

scientific, technology and software applications to aid in slowing (or stopping) the proliferation of crime in the world of art. This trend in fine art management through authentication and certification will save billions of dollars lost to the criminal art markets around the planet incorporated into 100s of millions in law enforcement savings. Imagine knowing instantly if a piece of art is genuinely based on a "Digital Fingerprint", attached to a painting or Renaissance sketch simply by passing a smart-phone over the object.

San Diego based, *Great Masters Art* is located in Rancho Santa Fe and has a technical staff proudly backed by a science icon, bar none; Maurizio Seracini. This gifted mastermind, is a world renown scientist, engineer and art expert working globally for decades. In Italy, he is uncovering answers to elusive enigmas of people like Leonardo da Vinci and Giorgio Vasari. Dr. Seracini is a pioneer in the application of multi-spectral imaging and a myriad of other diagnostics. Concerning the trends in analytical technologies applied to the mysteries involving works of art and anomalies in ancient architectural structures – even solving crimes, he is one our most respected scientists alive.

The lab and development center of Great Masters Art (in San Diego and Florence Italy) would be the envy of any police crime lab analyzing evidence in criminal investigations, including art crimes. The group's signature goal is to offer a multifaceted insight using the best technology available to aid in crime prevention as well as authentication and analysis in a virtual turn-key custom solution tailored to the needs of law enforcement, museums, galleries, auction houses and private ownership. Working with local and international universities, the technical staff has the support and network of advanced research facilities worldwide. They constantly monitor the pulse of the art world.

Awareness in that world as well as keeping pace on criminal activity has been credited to the Internet and the innovations in technology; and the future is linked to the meteoric rise of the smart-phone.

There is a forever pursuit to outwit the wolf. Thankfully, astute sheepdogs have truly kept up with that very courageous and noble quest.

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Note – Herders in general like Border collies, Australian shepherds and Polish sheep dogs are considered most of the smartest breeds in the world.

<http://www.police-technology.net/id59.html>

<https://news.artnet.com/market/over-50-percent-of-art-is-fake-130821>