



Smithsonian Associates

The Provenance Trap: How Forgers Fool the Art World

Noah Charney

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

Welcome to “The Provenance Trap,” a Smithsonian lecture on art forgery with art crime expert, Dr Noah Charney.

To learn much more, consider reading Noah’s [The Art of Forgery](#) (Phaidon 2015), still the definitive book on art forgery. It’s currently out of print but you can find used copies and a new edition is in the works!

Read Great Articles on Forgery

Noah recommends “[Mark of the Masterpiece](#)” by David Grann from *The New Yorker*. When Noah teaches writing, he assigns this article.

Noah’s Other Books

Noah is the author of more than 20 books, including best-sellers and a Pulitzer finalist. His latest are:

- [The Thefts of the Mona Lisa: The Complete Story of the World’s Most Famous Painting](#)
- [The 12-Hour Film Expert: Everything You Need to Know About Movies](#)

Explore others wherever you buy books.

Video Materials

Noah is a TV and radio presenter, and also writes for platforms like TED. You can see some of his work on fields related to art forgery, including a TED video about “The art forger who tricked the Nazis” and “The strange history of world’s most stolen painting” and “Why is the Mona Lisa famous,” all written by Noah. Find them on YouTube or on Noah’s website, www.noahcharney.com.

Noah presented and wrote a BBC series, “China’s Stolen Treasures,” that is available for free [here](#).

Future Courses

Dr Charney teaches online for other venues besides the Smithsonian, including the National Gallery UK, Atlas Obscura, and Yale University. These courses are open to all. Forthcoming courses online this fall include:

- “The Herstory of Art: The Untold Story of Women in Art” ([Yale](#))
- “The Secret History of Art: Symbols and How to Read Artworks” (National Gallery UK)

To learn more, contact Noah at theartthief@gmail.com

ARCA

To learn more about the research group on art crime that Noah founded, the Association for Research into Crimes against Art, visit www.artcrimeresearch.org. You can join the annual, summer-long Postgraduate Program in Art Crime and Cultural Heritage Protection, the world’s first academic program in the field; subscribe the *The Journal of Art Crime*, the first peer-reviewed academic journal in the field, and much more.