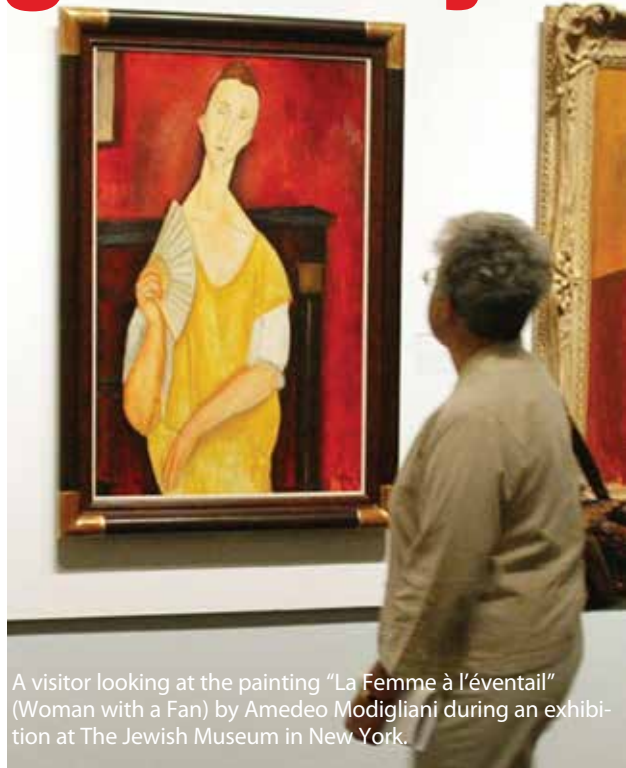


\$100m Paris art heist

'Spiderman' goes to jail



A visitor looking at the painting "La Femme à l'éventail" (Woman with a Fan) by Amedeo Modigliani during an exhibition at The Jewish Museum in New York.

Paris
A thief nicknamed "Spiderman", who stole five masterpieces from a top Paris museum, was sentenced to eight years in prison yesterday for one of the most daring art heists in recent years.

Vjeran Tomic and two accomplices were also fined a whopping 104 million euros (\$110m) over the theft of five paintings by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Ferdinand Leger and Amedeo Modigliani from the Musee d'Art Moderne in 2010.

The artworks, which were estimated by the City of Paris to be worth 109m euros, are still missing.

Tomic, 49, was arrested in May 2011 and admitted carrying out the heist.

Two accomplices -- a 61-year-old antique dealer accused of ordering the heist and a 40-year-old watchmaker who hid the paintings for a while -- were given sentences of seven and six years respectively.

Tomic was accused of cutting through a padlocked gate and breaking a window to get into the

gallery, one of the most-visited museums in the French capital.

Three guards were on duty that night, but the paintings were only found to be missing from their frames the next day.

The museum's alarms had been awaiting repair for several weeks.

Tomic told police he had come for Leger's "Still Life with Candlestick" from 1922, not thinking he would also be able to steal another four.

The other works stolen were Picasso's cubist "Dove with Green Peas" from 1912 -- alone worth an estimated 25 million euros -- Matisse's "Pastoral" from 1905, Braque's "Olive Tree near Estaque" from 1906, and Modigliani's "Woman with a Fan" from 1919.

All but the Modigliani were hung in the same room in the museum, which is home to more than 8,000 works of 20th-century art.

'Liked' the paintings

Tomic, a master burglar, said he took all five paintings because he "liked" them.

Athletically built and 1.90 metres (six foot 2 inches) tall, he had gained his nickname by clambering into posh Parisian apartments and museums to steal valuable gems and works of art.

Prosecutors claim he was spotted by a homeless man as he roamed around the museum in the days leading to the theft.

Police arrested him after receiving an anonymous tip and tracking his mobile phone.

There has been a spate of art thefts in Europe in recent years.

The most recent, in 2015, involved the theft of five paintings worth 25 million euros by renowned British artist Francis Bacon in Madrid.

Spanish police arrested seven people last year suspected of being involved in that theft. -(AFP)



Representative picture

Uber launches sexual harassment investigation

San Francisco

Uber chief executive Travis Kalanick has announced an "urgent investigation" at the ride-sharing company after a former employee wrote a blog post yesterday alleging sexual harassment and sexism at the firm.

"What's described here is abhorrent and against everything we believe in. Anyone who behaves this way or thinks this is OK will be fired," Kalanick said on Twitter.

"I've instructed our (Chief Human Resources Officer) Liane Hornsey to conduct an urgent investigation. There can be absolutely no place for this kind of behavior at Uber."

Susan Fowler, an engineer who worked at Uber until the end of last year, said her manager made sexual advances shortly after she joined the company at the end of 2015.

She said she complained to more senior managers and the company's human resources department, but was told that it was the man's "first offense" and that they wouldn't feel comfortable punishing a "high



Representational image

performer." Fowler said she was given the choice of joining another team, or staying in her position with the possibility of receiving a poor performance review from her manager.

Other the next few months, Fowler said she met other women engineers at the company who said they had also experienced similar harassment, including alleged

inappropriate behavior from her previous manager.

After lodging various complaints of what she considered inappropriate behavior, Fowler said she was told by her manager that she was "on thin ice" for reporting his boss to human resources.

The HR department, meanwhile, told her that she might be the problem, not the men she was reporting. -(AFP)

India to test new nuclear missile

India is set to conduct a test launch of its new K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) as it seeks to develop a retaliatory nuclear strike capability against both China and Pakistan

