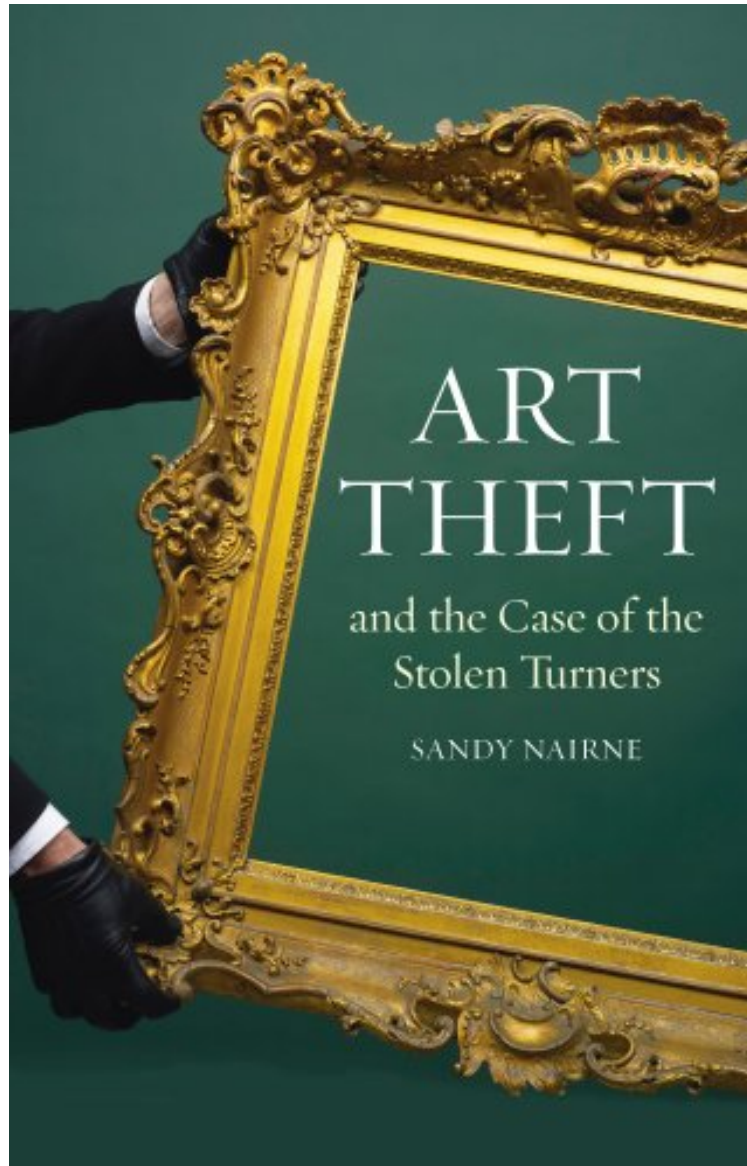


(Download pdf) Art Theft and the Case of the Stolen Turners

## Art Theft and the Case of the Stolen Turners

*Sandy Nairne*

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**Sandy Nairne : Art Theft and the Case of the Stolen Turners** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art Theft and the Case of the Stolen Turners:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Stolen Apples Taste the SweetestBy Christian SchlectIf you are responsible for keeping the contents of an art museum in the museum, this book would be an excellent one for you to read.It falls short of being a great book due to its lack of clear focus. Its first, and stronger, part is the story of the work performed over many years leading to the return of two stolen J.M.W. Turner paintings to the Tate in London. Here the author, Sandy Nairne, was directly involved and provides an insiders' true, but sometimes plodding, account of the

eventual complex recovery process of the two works, which were stolen while on loan in Germany. Issues of insurance and dealing with the police are nicely set forth. I think the best part of the book is on the many ethical considerations that are raised and discussed about a high-profile recovery that entailed negotiations with a German attorney who held useful information on the crime. After large payments were made to him, the art was handed back to the Tate museum. Was this a permissible reward or an illegal ransom? The book's second part is mostly a simple rehash of other important art crimes, whether true or as fictionally depicted in the movies. (Why is it necessary to talk about female police detectives?) This part does have some good discussion of why paintings by the masters are now valued so highly by society--and thieves--and what might be done, if anything, to better protect these works or capture the thugs who steal them. An ethical point I think was overlooked by Mr. Nairne: Why was it permissible for the Tate to essentially lie to the press about the state of recovery, when it had in hand one of the two paintings? 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pun or not: A real page-"TURNER" :-)

By B. J. Ford This book is extremely entertaining. It is a highly readable account of a complex set of circumstances. The author does an excellent job of explaining various points of view of the subject throughout history, as well as various opinions expressed by people in a variety of fields. About half of the book was the author's narrative devoted to recounting his involvement in the resolution of a particular theft. The second part of the book was dedicated to an overview of similar famous cases. The author presented a well-rounded, well-researched discussion regarding various theories of the motivations behind art crime, and how they are affected by changing trends in markets and societies. The bibliography is impressive. I highly recommend this great read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The psychology of the art thief

exMINED By B. C. Edmunds Very interesting for those with a special interest in this particular case. Much detail about the theft of the Turners which is an unusual case.

The theft of high-profile works of art is not new and recurs on a fairly regular basis. In 1994 two important paintings by J.M.W Turner (then valued at pound;24 million) were stolen from a public gallery in Frankfurt while on loan from the Tate in London. Sandy Nairne, who was then Director of Programmes at the Tate, became centrally involved in the pursuit of the pictures and in the negotiation for their return. In *Art Theft and the Case of the Stolen Turners* he relates for the first time this complex, cloak-and-dagger story of the theft, the many efforts to regain the paintings and the final return of the pictures in 2002 to public display at the Tate. In addition to this story, Nairne examines other high-value art thefts, trying to resolve the puzzle of why thieves steal well-known works of art that cannot be sold, even on the black market. Nairne also discusses the theft and recovery of works of art, acknowledging that they form part of a much broader field of theft, looting and illicit dealings with art and antiquities around the world. He debates how different concepts of value can be understood by examining episodes of art theft, questions of motivation and surrounding ethical issues. How art theft is depicted in fiction is also considered, including the construction of the image of the art thief, the specialist detective and the mysterious figure of the hidden, criminal collector. *Art Theft and the Case of the Stolen Turners* is the culmination of eight and a half years of pursuing the missing paintings, and a further period of research and interviews with key players in the drama. It is a vivid and personal account of a hidden art world and a compelling real-life detective story that will keep both art and mystery lovers eagerly turning pages.