

NEWS

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More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bergen County Man Arrested for Theft Last Year
of Goya Painting Insured for \$1 Million

(More)

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NEWARK – A Bergen County man was arrested last evening on an Indictment charging him with stealing the Francisco de Goya painting “Children with a Cart” last year, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Steven Lee Olson, 49, was arrested at his home in Carlstadt by Special Agents of the FBI Violent Crimes/Interstate Theft Task Force. Olson was expected to make an initial appearance today at about 2:15 p.m. before U.S. Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz.

According to the Indictment, Olson stole “Children with a Cart,” a 1778 painting by the Spanish master Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, on Nov. 8, 2006, as it was in transit to New York City from the Toledo Museum of Art in Toledo, Ohio.

The Toledo Museum of Art owned the painting and at the time of the theft insured it for more than \$1 million. The Toledo Museum had shipped the painting with a professional art transporter, and Olson allegedly stole the painting off the back of a truck.

“The FBI is proud to announce this arrest,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun. “It is not everyday that a theft like this occurs. Our agents have been working diligently to bring this case to this point, even after the valuable painting was recovered.”

Olson is charged in the Indictment with theft of an object of cultural heritage from a museum, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

In determining an actual sentence, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant’s criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines and determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodian terms must serve nearly all that time.

Despite indictment, the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun in Newark with the continuing investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth Kosto of the Criminal Division in Newark.

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