

FORGERY 101

Finding the Artist

One of the most important things to consider when making a forgery is who the forgery is of. You need to know their typical subjects and settings. You want to find someone with a decent amount of works already in the public so a new one will not be a huge deal, or you want someone with known missing works. This, or stick to doing many lower level forgeries while focusing on making a large quantity.



Science

Science in art? Yes, actually. It is important to consider the certain ways that the historical artist you are forging would be painting, drawing, or sculpting. You need to know what paints they were using and must make sure that what you use aligns with that. Using something that was not available at the time the artist was working is the first major red flag that will tip off authenticators.

Forging Provenance

The art world is all about reputation. To forge the history of your work of art can be difficult. While one can name a list of private collectors who had ownership of the work, getting it back into the art market can be quite difficult. The provenance needs to be believable and there needs to be a reputable connection to get it through to the legitimate art market.



Stylistic Aspects

Arguable the most important aspect of a successful forgery is making sure that the forgery looks like one made by the original artist. This means not only knowing the general color scheme and style that they use, but also the way in which they apply the paint to the canvas and the specific ways in which they orient their subjects. All must be considered when trying to fool a connoisseur.

