Famous Art Forgers of the 20th Century – How They Did It and Why

Virtual series

Thursdays, 14 January to 18 February 2027

Presented by Anika Molnárová Baranayi

This six-part lecture series explores the fascinating and often deceptive world of art forgery through the lives, methods and motivations of some of history's most notorious forgers.

Together, these lectures reveal not only how forgeries are made, but also what compels forgers to a life of crime.

14 January 2027: Introduction
Beginning with the materials and anatomy of traditional oil painting, we examine how artists – and counterfeiters – understood pigments, supports, varnishes, craquelure and the aging process itself, learning how experts authenticate works and how forgers learned to imitate time. The series then moves into compelling biographical case studies.

21 January 2027: Han van Meegeren
Han van Meegeren's elaborate fake Vermeers that fooled the art establishment and changed how art is authenticated

28 January 2027: Elmyr de Hory
Charming and elusive Elmyr de Hory, whose forged modern masterpieces deceived collectors and galleries worldwide

4 February 2027: Tom Keating
We will explore **Tom Keating**'s rebellious attacks on the art market and his connection to Canadian art scandals involving Cornelius Krieghoff and the Art Gallery of Ontario

11 February 2027: Wolfgang Beltracchi
Followed by Wolfgang Beltracchi's extraordinary blend of artistic brilliance and business acumen that enabled one of the largest forgery operations in modern history

18 February 2027: John Myatt
The series concludes with John Myatt, the art teacher whose "genuine fakes" became the centre of an international fraud case marked by talent, regret and unlikely public sympathy