



# **Spotting fakes, forgeries and misattributions: Game of Luck or Question of Skill?**

Noor Kadhim  
Gardner Leader

When you assume you make an ass of u and me





# Which of these is authentic?



# Losing one's Witts...



# Devil in the detail



# It's all Greek to us (and to the Getty too, clearly)



"Batteries of scientific tests were conducted and experts from around the world invited to the Getty before the museum, relying heavily on scientific evidence, decided in favor of the work's authenticity and bought it for around \$9 million. It went on view in October 1986."

"...As the kouros illustrates, objectivity is a chimera, even in this age of electron microscopy, thermoluminescence and carbon-14 dating. Science may be no more certain than the connoisseur's eye in judging a work's authenticity."



"...a marine chemist from the Scripps Oceanographic Institute in La Jolla, Calif., Miriam Castner, has made the crucial discovery that, contrary to what Mr. Margolis asserted, the process of de-dolomitization can be duplicated in a laboratory."

**"I always considered scientific opinion more objective than esthetic judgments," Ms. True added. "Now I realize I was wrong."**

From the New York Times article- 4 August 1991

# Asking the “Experts”



# Differences of opinion



# Truths and perceptions



- **1 + 1 = 2**
- **What about Turner + Turner + Turner?**



A gift from the sky ...



***[This] painting, which belongs to Titian's Danaë series and which depicts a classical princess being showered with gold, was assumed to be a 19th-century copy of a Titian masterpiece, but research using X-rays and infra-red photography has revealed it to be an original painting by the master's own hand."***

*[from the Times – 3 December 2014]*

# Staring at rejection



“When I did my self portrait, I left all the pimples out because you always should. Always omit the blemishes.”

Andy Warhol  
The Philosophy of Andy Warhol (From A to B).

# Red Harings?



*“by rejecting authentic Haring artworks, the Foundation has inflated the value of works owned by the Foundation and its representatives...which has benefited [them]”*

# Sleepers



# Ouch.



"Justice Newey concluded that the painting, "Odalisque," which shows a nude woman asleep on a bed, was probably not painted by Russian artist Boris Kustodiev."

*[from the Moscow Times – 29 July 2012]*



Value | Trust | Peace of Mind

White Hart House  
Market Place  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 5BA

Winbolt House  
The Broadway  
Thatcham  
Berkshire  
RG19 3HX

First Floor  
7 Frascati Way  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire,  
SL6 4UY

T : 01635 508080  
F : 01635 521341  
W: [gardner-leader.co.uk](http://gardner-leader.co.uk)

