

Famous painter arrested in raid

Series falsified Altink discovered Cor L.

by Joost de Haas and Charles Sanders

AMSTERDAM, Thursday

The Amsterdam police Monday in a raid near the town of Beilen in art circles infamous amateur painter Cor L. arrested for fraud and Absconding. L. is suspected of several dozen canvases distort and circulation of the Groningen Ploeg painter Altink.

This newspaper reported extensively last year about the activities of a Beilense villa annex shelter for mentally disabled resident Cor and Corie L.

The article series led to the withdrawal of some suspected falsified Altink at Sotherby's auction house in Amsterdam. L. harnessed this a lawsuit against De Telegraaf in which he demanded rectification.

On July 4 last year, given the vice-president of the Amsterdam court, mr. JM Vrakking that

"The Telegraph has demonstrated that his false Altink by L. Van at auction houses offered paintings."

In the raid Monday one hour exceeded Amsterdam detective, who was accompanied by state police, a magistrate and a clerk in the house of the Van L.'s hundreds of works of art.

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Cor L.

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Initially police work was complicated by the many mentally disabled people who find shelter in Van L. couple Eventually he managed to take a selection of 32 paintings, mostly false Altink, back to the Amsterdam firm Van Leyen Berghlaan.

There's since been fixed L. Van well. was registered by three duped two auction houses and private collectors to him.

Head Agent W. Stefels of the investigation: "We have to assess the 32 canvases by Mrs. R. Smithuis and Cees Hofsteenge, experts par excellence The two found out independently to the same conclusion, that there are only three real Altink were good. . "

Sample plot

L. continues to deny yourself in all keys. Detective H. Hali: "He thinks of a sample plot and believes that the whole art world is conspiring against him. This week we will send our complete file, we have worked for over a year, according to the prosecution. "

One of the witnesses who will be called least in the trial of L., the renowned Altink expert and gallery owner Renee Smithuis. She says about the affair: "I was not surprised when the police called me. From the beginning I knew the Altink who brought in circulation Van L. is no virtue. "