

## Beaten but not defeated

From our reporter Marguerite

Benak

Holthe - "I felt beaten me, but never defeated, and you fall does not matter. It's only a tragedy if you do not have the courage to stand up. I just feel like I've come out stronger. I thus learned that it is important to relativize things and collect. And you keep on hand the case. We did not get off the field ahead. "The 50-year-old painter and dealer Cor van Loenen, with his wife Corrie now 17 years living in the Beiler buurtschapje Holthe, was until recently the chief suspect in the forgery of cloths Groninger Ploeg Altink painter (1885-1971). In 1991 the name of Van Loenen was associated with faking Altink, after Amsterdam at renowned auction houses such as Sotheby's and Christie's canvases were withdrawn from the auction because it was not clear whether the Altink now were real or fakes. In 1992 Cor van Loenen was even brought from home. By eight detectives. With a mop in one hand and in the other a bottle of bleach - "I was trying to clean the toilet," - he was asked to come along. Four days of interrogation in Amsterdam. "I did not even have time to pack my toothbrush."

Justice in Amsterdam has since dropped the case. Due to lack of evidence. It has been said that time many of Van Loenen and written. But Cor van Loenen is no further with it. The Altink affair is thus dismissed. The findings of the forensic laboratory in Rijswijk, the two alleged falsification of Altink (the painting of road, some farms and horse drawn J. Altink '42, and the painting with mountains and sun, signed J. Altink '54) subjected to a technical examination, say more than enough, Van Loenen. Using microscopic infrared analysis has been established that there is no evidence that the paintings are false. "That means that they are good," says Cor van Loenen. Also the controversial 'naked' portrait Altink, the first years in Groningen had rotated without signature of the painter himself, but later, when Van Loenen cloth was held, it was suddenly bear the name, it has been established that the signature is genuine. "There was a line on the canvas. When I tried to brush away the dirt with modeling clay, I found that the work it was signed. "

The couple feels "relieved and liberated. While find their lawyer, that there is a possibility to get compensation for the days when the art dealer was detained, Cor and Corrie van Loenen will leave it at that. "That set the forensic lab that

canvases are not false, the crown on our work. And you know what it is? The whole thing has cost us enough money and energy. And why we will continue. The results will still sound the same, namely

"Lack of evidence."

Van Loenen find moreover the antics to begin a trial to prove his innocence. "What you achieve with it? They rectify perhaps with a few lines from the vegetable advertising that Van Loenen was right. "According to Van Loenens they do better to forget the matter.

They were good friends with the family Tjerk Vermaning, the much talked amateur archaeologist from Drenthe and Van Loenen also accused of forgery. "Tjerk does have fought to prove his innocence. And we have seen how much trouble it has caused in his family. Yet he is misunderstood died. That will not happen to us," says Cor van Loenen. Full satisfaction, according to Cor van Loenen only speak as Justice René Smithuis (the gallery owner from Heiloo, who first dubbed the Altink if false) and all the other art experts would recognize them wrong.

Therefore Van Loenen likes' so okay. "Not because I was once with the routine. Certainly not. And there will be solid people who think "you now see, they do have something to hide." But let's just nice thought. I can paint happy again. Yes happy because there was a time when nothing came out of my fingers. I sat behind my easel and just could not paint. I've thought for a while that it would never come back again. But I'm back doing good now. "

He now has eleven Altink home. That will remain true. "There's definitely interest. But I like the preliminary quiet. "From infected Altink paintings is Van Loenen no. "Something is infected sick. It has been proven by the forensic laboratory, that there are no ill bacteria are found in these paintings? Maybe they will just become more interesting for certain people. "

*(Not printed photo)*

• Cor van Loenen with Altink-canvas 'Nude', which now also be established that the signature of the Groningen Ploeg painting is real. Fotopersburo Melissen / Peter Wassing