

## **False Altink dives in art world**

From our reporters Menno Hoexum and Eddy Schaafsma

GRONINGEN - Art dealers and auction houses in the Netherlands are increasingly confronted with false paintings Altink, once one of the prominent members of the Groningen artists' group De Ploeg.

By auction of the renowned auction houses Sotheby's and Christie's in Amsterdam this week pulled five Altink. In all cases, serious doubts about the authenticity of the paintings. Two weeks ago and this week have been offered by art dealers in Groningen Altink three, who were not really at first glance.

In art circles is all over the story paintings Team members are distorted widely. A development that began after the prices of these Groninger Art Movement suddenly soared last year. This price increase is due to a growing interest in particular work Altink and fellow Ploeg Johan Dijkstra from the west of the country. The growing interest and increasing rates of work Altink (1885-1976) have to do with a major retrospective, held him in Haarlem last year.

## Counterfeits come as no surprise

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**GRONINGEN** - For the experts at auction houses Sotheby's and Christie's, the problem arises that hardly a true Altink in the Netherlands - or team - expert is available. A spokesman for Sotheby's says that the paintings are withdrawn just before the auction, but it is certain not 100 percent that it is counterfeit. "At the slightest doubt about the authenticity of a painting we take back the cloths. But there is indeed a growing supply of mainly Altink that all look alike. "

A similar reaction has at Christie's. According to the catalog Wednesday were two paintings by Altink enter the auction. Pictures of both works were also included in the catalog. "Just before the start of the auction yet again created serious doubts about the authenticity. That is why we have withdrawn the two works, "says one of the experts. The art world in Groningen is reluctant to give a response. Everyone knows the story of the false Altink and also several times a copy had faced. Cees Hofsteenge, owner of the same name, in team-work specialist art dealer in Groningen: "It's definitely 50 to 100 wrong things, but probably more. You recognize them immediately. Counterfeiters make the mistake of repeating their pose too often. It's all a bit silly painted, they are often landscapes with the horizon disappearing ditch or road, a few trees and a house or farm. The paint is highly diluted and runs off. A little expert sees immediately that it is a forgery. "

Many art dealers see the events this week at Sotheby's and Christie's confirmation of what is suspected for some time.

Lately, many so-called art auctions held in motels and halls of cultural centers, which almost always works Groninger Team members are offered. According to experts this concerns often dubious job.