

Sad story should generate money for rebuilding pension psychiatric patients ...

Recently, this newspaper in a series of articles revealed the role of the Drenthe and Cornelis Cornelisje couple of L. spreading false labeled by experts as works of the Groninger Ploeg painter Altink. After the publications of L.'s filed a lawsuit against the newspaper De Telegraaf, in which they demanded rectification because they felt harmed honor and reputation.

Last Thursday pointed vice president of the Amsterdam court mr. JM Vrakking in this controversial affair judgment. According Vrakking De Telegraaf on the basis of experts' statements can demonstrate that the concerns false Altink. The judge: "This is all the more so now that real suspicion of falsehood is only reinforced the journalists by the way the plaintiffs have presented the work at auction houses, namely under different names and with a vague story about its origin."

A reconstruction of the scandal of false Altink.

IF THE NAMES OF L.'s grazing ART WORLD!

by Joost de Haas and CHARLES SANDERS

BEILEN / AMSTERDAM, Saturday

Sunday November 18 1990. Ms. Renee Smithuis, owner of the eponymous art gallery in Heiloo, enters the village pub 'Arm Zijpe' in the North Holland Schagerbrug. Less than half an hour later, leaving as much integrity reputable Smithuis the establishment.

With a sense of compassion for the couple Cornelis and Cornelisje L. After all, the man with the strikingly large, gray beard and his petite wife were initially a sympathetic impression on her. That was also the reason why Mrs Smithuis afternoon silent on the conclusion they drew immediately after watching the two Altink works that the couple offered her for sale. "As false as a crow, which sees every connoisseur", thinks Smithuis.

But because of L.'s put up a pathetic story about their lack of money as they were about to remodel their home and therefore wanted to take two out of hand heritage Altink obtained decides Heiloose nothing to say.

Six months later hears Smithuis, expert of the Groningen Ploeg Painter movement which also Altink (1885-1971) belonged to pop up all over the land auctions in fake works Altink. Then they heard the couple L. Of the two presented to her earlier pseudo-Altiks finally able to wear a relationship with her. NB by saying: "Mrs. Smithuis she watched, she loved them!" Meanwhile, the price of the work of Altink increased dramatically.

Especially people outside the art circuit, which their cash now finally a really nice cloth would open, had discovered the charming landscapes of Altink.

The ax

Similarly, Mrs. HR de Vries from Groningen Haren. The wife of a bus driver takes on 23 April this year, early in the morning, all the money from her savings account, the train picks for Den Haag and go on the auction of the Venduehuis of Notaries immediately before the ax as the auctioneer Two "Altink" will go under the hammer.

The two Altink Mrs. De Vries bought at auction were introduced by Cornelis Teunis L., which thereby acting under the name of his uncle. Both paintings are later found false by experts, the sale is reversed, the terrified Mrs Smith compensated. And uncle, whose name was used by Cor L. upon insertion of the canvases, the Venduehuis calling on saying that he is "ill will of the practice of his nephew." This is not an isolated incident, as it soon. On May 14 will be auctioned at Loth Gijs Elman in the Singer Museum in Laren one Altink. The cloth, which leaves for nine thousand guilders, later reversed by auctioneer Jef Hagen because he has serious doubts about the authenticity. Introducer: the wife of Cor van L. Cornelisje.

This way of L.'s offered a number of, in his own words, fifteen Altink to pensions and fifteen at auctions and art dealers in the Netherlands including leading houses like Christie's, Sotheby's, Glerum and Venduehuis of Notaries. Under false pretense and with the use of intermediaries and other names. When prospective buyers the couple to the why questions the sudden sale replies Cornelis, former art teacher and now proprietor of a boarding house for psychiatric patients, he and his wife need money to rebuild their farm and guesthouse.

Other name

Sotheby's intervene after a publication in this newspaper on Saturday 25 May. The paintings 'View of the Harbor, Daman' and 'Winter', introduced by Cor L. under a different name, be withdrawn a few minutes before the big spring auction.

A short time later, Sotheby's decision to turn the Public Prosecution. In a letter dated 10 June this year to the chief public prosecutor mr. C. van Steenderen writes Sotheby lawyer mr.

F. Schneider: *"To the judgment of my client must be seriously doubted the authenticity"*



▲ Two canvases were introduced by Van L. and were taken back by Sotheby's just before the auction, "View of the Harbor, Daman 'and' Winter '. According to expert Sibbele Ongerling Groningen pure fakes. Sotheby's



Cornelis van

L ...

meanwhile the OM on. Photos: JAN STEPS BELD ◀
Rob Snape expert at Sotheby's, had a bizarre experience with L. Van's: Cornelis L. Hillebrandt the name used for retrieving two he introduced pseudo-Altink. The man had drawn

P. de Haas. Snape recognized the little man with the big beard immediately if

from the weeks, she does not consider it excluded at victim to be joined a attempted oplich ting.

Client asks you der half an investigation to a and other to let set and shows, so this study the suspected client confirms, already to know in that case declaration it will

to do."These are for Sotheby's CEO Rob Snape a bizarre experience. Snape takes two to work on February 14 in receipt of a man who introduces himself as R. Hillebrandt from Amsterdam. A small man with a big beard. Under receipt number 73646, the two works are presented as real Altink. The form is signed by one P. Haas. Later shows that Hillebrandt is actually L. Cor. What signing with regards P. Haas: Van L. couple declares that Cor mentioned in our home Mr. De Haas. My name is Haas. A joke ... Right after the auction of Sotheby's, the two pseudo-Altink were withdrawn at the last minute, Rob Snape leaves the work to Groningen to be examined for authenticity them by local experts and Chris Sibbele Ongerling.

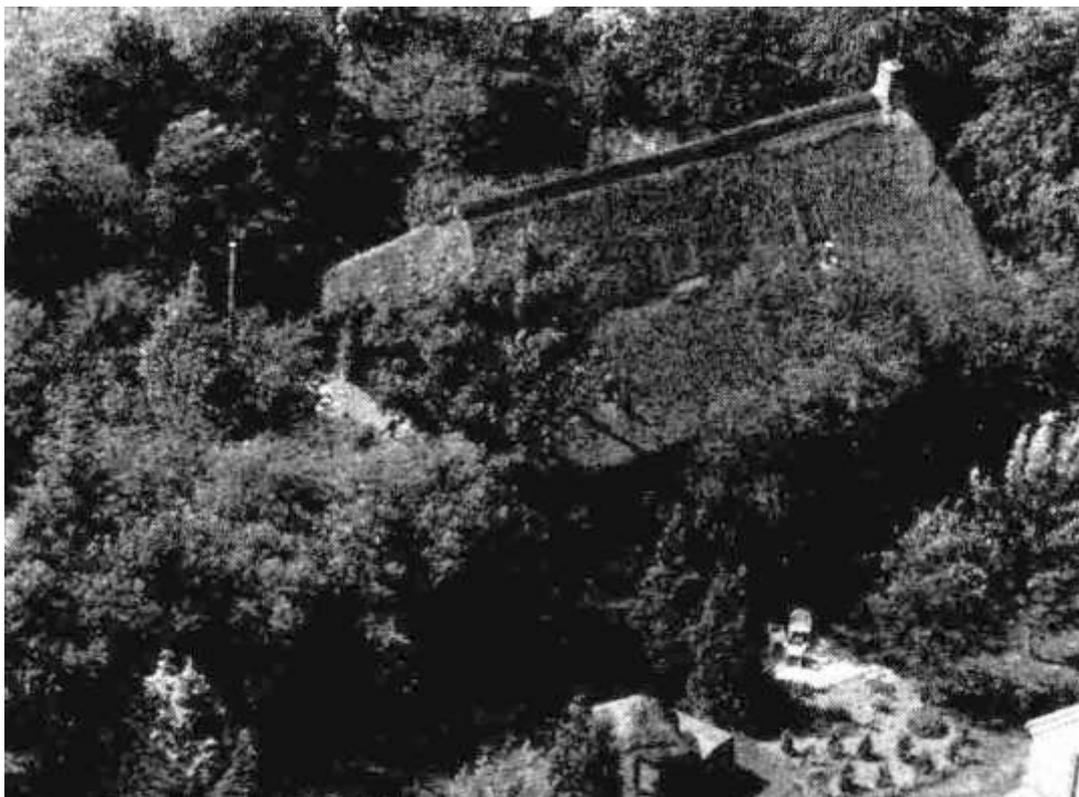
notorious

This newspaper report the next day, Wednesday, May 29, the trace of the false Altink affair leads to the hamlet Holthe, near Beilen. In art circles in the infamous couple Cornelis and Cornelisje L. Infamous, because in the early eighties 'name' made with the trade in so-called witch balls. These bulbs mirror, originally intended to deter witches were in those days wanted antiquarian object.

The beautifully restored farmhouse from the Van L. in Holthe hung full of it. And they were not all real, so recalls art dealer mr. Wout Schuurmans themselves. The lawyer from Haren: "From L. heksenbol once sold as antiques, while the thing was brand new. The local newspapers here

were full of. Eventually Van L. admitted and was reversed the sale. But only after it was threatened with legal action. "

Jan Nagtegaal, former restorer of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam: "I came at that time ever on the floor at the Van L.'s. Cor was a weird hustler, their farm was bulging witch balls. They rumbled really into antiques. Especially antiques that were in demand. "Following the publication of May 29 of the L. couple filed a lawsuit against De Telegraaf. Their demand: rectification because they felt harmed honor and reputation.



▲ The farm of Cornelis and Cornelisje couple of L. in the hamlet Holthe at Beilen. Hidden behind tall trees, the property is not only seen in the area from the street. Photo: BERT WIERINGA

Meanwhile false Altink stay here and popping and the brand new foundation establishment, which has the objective to investigate the authenticity of paintings Altink · hands full of work. Rich Art restorer Lammert Muller this week on behalf of the foundation: "We have so far seven Altink be contributed by Van L. couple studied at auctions. There is only one possible conclusion. Everything is false. Van L. nota bene have written often themselves behind the canvases "From legacy grandmothers ..."

Vice-president of the Amsterdam court mr. JM Vrakking decision by interlocutory decision to hear the parties in the lawsuit between Telegraph and L. Van's. Wednesday, June 26, he asks in the Palace of Justice to the Parnassusweg to Van L. couple how they still came in possession of so many Altink.

Cor L. wrote then comes up with a hand by himself, seven sheets lengthy statement. In addition, he speaks named contacts with Altink-collector, Van den Berg. L. also admits he has no idea where the man currently resides. L. also claims to have bought for a sum of 38,500 guilders six paintings, gouaches twelve and one panel of the Unknown Van den Berg.

According to the statement Drenthe couple will later contact with the equally unknown 'Mr. Smith' in Amsterdam, even though a **Altink scholar who in nothing is gone. Van Loenen says *in front of* have purchased a total of 27,500 guilders five smaller paintings and gouaches of the thirteen mysterious Jansen. The sale was closed in the North · South Holland Coffee shop opposite the Central Station "plus minus 20 September 1990." If exchange for so-called Altink Van L. had besides cash as jewelery and antiques brought from his hometown Holthe.**

Cor L. in his statement: *"After we had watched my stuff in the coffee, we went to a white van, parked right next to the main entrance of the central station. After the paintings and gouaches in the van viewed to have, we agreed. Having carefully packed (four packs) he put me on the train to Beilen. I could sit down to Beilen. Departure 21:32 am. Check Beilen 23:30. Taxi from station to Holthe. "*

Vice President Vrakking the Amsterdam court noted judgment given in its last Thursday: "Although on the falsity of the work is no known definitive judgment involved, De Telegraaf, however, based on the statements of various experts also these proceedings have been submitted, may assume that these are false Altink here. This is even more so now that real suspicion of forgery for journalists has been reinforced only by the manner in which prosecutors have presented the work at auction houses, namely under different names and with a vague story about its origin.

On the use of other names when inserting the Altink argued Van L. at the first session that she "wanted to avoid any nuisance interest in the art market." Later reads their defense that they were afraid of threats because they the past had previously received calls from shady characters. It would also reduce the price when it was revealed that many Altink were introduced by **the same people. Mr. Vrakking this in his judgment: *"They (the couple Van L., ed.) Do not plausible able to make such a practice within the art world customary or necessary. It has become apparent, moreover, that the occurrence of claimants (the couple Van L., ed.) Has brought about within circles art a lot of turbulence, and that the police have carried out an investigation into the origins of the works. "***

The Vice President of the Amsterdam District Court dismissed the claim for rectification and condemned the couple Cornelis and Cornelisje L. to pay the costs.

Van L.'s decline through their attorney. J.Th.N. van der Voorde any comment on the affair.

