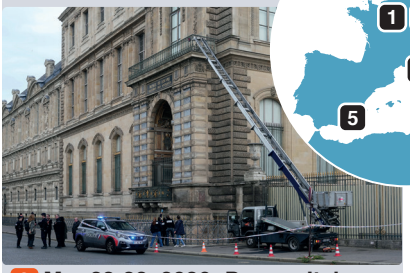
Wave of art heists sweeps across Europe

A painting theft from a Renoir museum in France is the latest in a wave of high-value objets d'art heists across Europe, where thieves are increasingly resorting to violence, Europol says

1 Oct 19, 2025; Paris, France
Thieves use vehicle-mounted lift to raid ***Apollo Gallery*** of ***Musée du Louvre*** in daylight, smashing cases and stealing eight French Crown Jewellery pieces worth **€88m. Four suspects arrested; jewels unrecovered**







5 Aug 27; Villena, Spain: Thieves make four-minute raid, stealing 66 mostly gold objects from ***Treasure of Villena*** *(above)*, Europe's greatest Bronze Age gold hoard. **Gold worth €1.7m; archaeological value immeasurable**

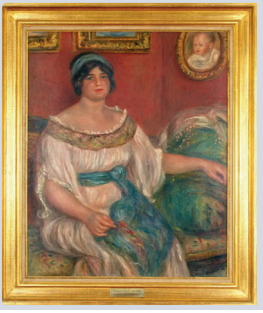
2 Mar 22-23, 2026; Parma, Italy
Four masked men steal three paintings by ***Cézanne***, ***Renoir*** and ***Matisse***, worth more than **€9m** from ***Fondazione Magnani Rocca.*** **Recovered in Aug 2026**

3 Jul 5; Wingen-sur-Moder, France
Three masked thieves break into museum of French luxury glassmaker ***Lalique***, stealing 27 rare pieces of Art Nouveau and Art Deco jewellery valued at around **€4.5m**



6 Aug 27; Vienna, Austria
Two men smash ***Museum of Applied Arts*** display case during opening hours and steal 673-diamond necklace *(left)* made for ***Queen Nazli*** of Egypt, worth **$4.3m**

4 Aug 15; Messina, Sicily: Thieves exploit religious festival to steal four works by Renaissance master ***Antonello da Messina***, including three panels of ***Polyptych of San Gregorio*** and double-sided devotional painting, valued at **€70-80m**



7 Sep 8; Cagnes-sur-Mer, France
Two thieves steal two paintings, including ***The portrait of Madame Colonna Romano*** *(left)* worth millions of euros after breaking at dawn into ***Renoir Museum*** on French Riviera through hole made in garden fence

Pictures: Getty Images, Enrique Íñiguez, Austrian Federal Criminal Police Office, Renoir Museum
Source: Reuters, BBC, Museums Association, Europol

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