

## **THE HOOKER HEIST**

### **First Zurich, now Rutland**

Scene One: Friday afternoon, March 14, 2008, approximately 1:00 PM, at the Chaffee

While finishing up the new exhibit scheduled to open at that evening's Art Hop, office Manager Tammy English walks through one of the upstairs members' galleries. At first she hesitates, thinking there's something wrong; then she lets out a blood-curdling scream as she realizes what's happened: "The Inner Scream", an oil painting by artist member Bob Hooker and unquestionably the most famous work of art at the Chaffee, has been stolen! Shaking and hysterical, she reaches the office of Executive Director Rich Macaluso.

"Our Hooker's gone," she cries.

By this time they're joined by Beth Miller, Gallery Director. Together they run back to the gallery. "Don't touch a thing" says Macaluso, almost too calmly. "I'll call the police." Within minutes the sirens can be heard throughout Rutland. Detective Clue Zoe meets them at the front door and the four of them proceed back to the gallery.

After examining the scene, Detective Zoe asks that they return to Macaluso's office and the questioning begins:

Zoe: "When did you first notice the painting was missing?"

Macaluso: "About 1:00 this afternoon, perhaps ten minutes before we called you."

Zoe: "When was the last time anyone saw it?"

Miller: "I was hanging other paintings in this gallery earlier this morning and nothing was amiss. So I'd say, perhaps 10:00 AM."

Zoe: "Have there been many visitors today?"

English: "No, only a few. We open a new show tonight, so today's been a set-up day."

Zoe: "Do you have an alarm system?"

Macaluso: "Of course, with a trip wire and password on each painting."

Zoe: "What was the password on the Hooker?"

Miller: "I forgot."

Zoe, somewhat annoyed: "How can you forget, you're the Gallery Director?"

Miller: "No, that's the password, 'I forgot.'"

Zoe, now getting really annoyed: "Do those surveillance cameras work?"

Macaluso, equally as annoyed: "They did last time we looked."

Zoe: "Let's go to the video tape."

After watching several hours of tape, Detective Zoe begins his report and calls back to the police department. "I want every available officer on this case" he tells his captain. "Don't bother with the usual suspects. I think the perp was in town specifically looking for a Hooker."

Captain: "I'll get the others together."

## Scene Two: At the Rutland Police Department Headquarters

Detective Zoe to his team: "Guys, this is serious. We got a good look at everyone who came into the Chaffee today. Their video cameras worked perfectly. Apparently the thief knew that tonight is one of Rutland's famous Art Hops and that the Chaffee schedules its gallery openings to coincide. All the running around and extra work that goes into a new exhibition made today the perfect opportunity to pull this off. Now it's our turn.

"I've watched the tape and narrowed it down to four primary suspects, although between us I have a lot of suspicions about the staff. We all know that these things are frequently 'inside jobs.' That Macaluso seems a little bit too cavalier about the whole thing, I can't question the Gallery Director Miller because she's not answering her phone and the Office Manager English 'said' she screamed when she first noticed it was missing, but she certainly had enough time and opportunity to steal it herself. Anyway, I've already run the sketches through Interpol and, besides the staff, we've got some hits. Here they are, in no particular order:

"Georgia O'Keats:

Background: She's the former teacher of the artist although he long ago surpassed her in popularity. Still, she's well known throughout the US and it's just as well-known that she harbors a grudge against Hooker. In the past, when visitors to her Boston gallery have commented on the similarities between their styles, she's often yelled out, 'I'm much better than any Hooker you'll ever see!' One more thing, she was seen carrying one of those giant handbags.

"Salvatore Dolly, PhD, MFA, BS, HSD, ESC, KD:

Background: Well respected art historian; got his BS from Castleton State and his MFA from Williams. Last 10 years he's been known to associate with a few shady characters. Well-traveled but no apparent source of income beyond trust account. Dolly was in Norway when the Munch disappeared and he was in Zurich last month but was never charged.

“Norman Rackweil:

Background: Well known New York art collector with a very private collection. So private that only a few people have ever seen it, and no one has seen the entire collection. Rackweil made his fortune buying and selling properties and holding the mortgages. Rumor has it that he’s been liquidating some of his art works, particularly the Euphronios krater he sold to the Italian government. Has his luck changed? Is he still wealthy?

“Now comes the tough one – the one neither Interpol nor the FBI could identify. The lady in the grey flannel suit. The cameras didn’t get a shot of her face, but she was in the Chaffee minutes before English found the painting missing. And she was carrying a big, black folder that would easily hold a painting.

“So there you have it, troops. Fan out and interview every art group in town and meet me back at the Chaffee later.”

Scene Three: The detectives’ job

There are clues hidden throughout ALL the participating Art Hop locations; you just have to find them.

All clues are “hidden in plain sight” which means that you need not – and should not – open any drawers, check in anyone’s pockets or go behind any counters. Keep in mind that everything you need to solve the mystery is out there, but a particular clue may not have anything to do with WHERE you find it. Please be courteous to those who will follow you – when you locate a clue, kindly leave it as it is – nothing additional will be gleamed from picking it up to examine it further.

Use your sheets to note what clues you find at which Art Hop locations. Correct clues found at each location count for points even if they have nothing to do with solving the mystery. We’ve also placed some “red herrings” out there, so be cautious!

In order to win, you’ll need to find all the clues and deduce who committed the theft, how he/she did it and what was his/her motive. If multiple people solve the mystery, one winner will be randomly chosen.

Everyone should meet back at the Chaffee at 8:00 PM..

Good Luck!

Scene Four: 8:00 PM Back at the Chaffee

The crowd is milling about, enjoying the new artwork, sipping fine wine. Without warning the front door swings open and Detective Clues Zoe, cheeks red from the cold, barges in.

Detective Clues Zoe: "We've nailed it! It was \_\_\_\_\_! We now know how it was done and why!"

How we'll score the clue sheets

10 points each for who, how and why

5 points for each correct clue

5 points for spelling your own name correctly

Minus 5 points for each wrong clue (Clues still count even if they point to the wrong culprit, but you lose points if you choose a fake clue!)

Maximum 100 points

CLUE SHEET

As you visit each location write down what clues you see. Remember, there are some clues designed just to throw you off! Finally, jot down who you think stole the painting, how and why and be sure to return this sheet to the Chaffee before 8:15. To be eligible for the "Reward Money" you must also register with the Chaffee before 4:00 PM on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Call (802) 775-0356 or send an email, to [TammyEnglish@ChaffeeArt.net](mailto:TammyEnglish@ChaffeeArt.net).

You MUST visit each participating location to find the clues.  
Good Luck!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

There is at least one clue at every location that you must locate.

	Clue #1	Clue #2
Chaffee Art Center	_____	_____
Pasche's Restaurant	_____	_____
Limoges Antiques	_____	_____
Camille's	_____	_____
The Brick Box	_____	_____
Center Street Artisans	_____	_____
Sabby's Restaurant	_____	_____
Arts and Antiques	_____	_____
Timco's Jewelers	_____	_____

The Heist was committed by: (thief's name) \_\_\_\_\_ and

The thief stole the painting by (method) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and the

Motive was \_\_\_\_\_ .

