Seventh Session of the Subsidiary Committee Meeting of States Parties of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

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The retrieval of "Saint Catherine"

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“Saint Catherine”

Author: Bartolomé E. Murillo

Place of theft: Museo de Arte Decorativo “Firma y Odilo Estevez”, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina.

Date: 2 November 1983

Technique and size: Oil on canvas, 89 x 115 cm
Chronology

1) November 2nd 1983

The artwork “Santa Catalina” from Bartolomé Murillo was stolen from The Firma and Odilo Applied Art Museum, Rosario, Santa Fe Province, Argentina, together with artworks from Goya, El Greco, Ribera and Sánchez Coelho.

2) The Museum made a police statement based on a updated inventory of the collections.
2 November 1983 -- 12.782 DAYS -- 31 October 2018

(35 YEARS)
3) Interpol Argentina added the information of the historical stolen artworks on the National Database of Stolen Artworks.

4) Through years the search was unsuccessful.

5) 35 years later, Interpol Argentina followed the clue provided by a key informant about the location of the painting in Uruguay.

6) After a joint intelligence work made by both countries, Interpol Argentina requested Interpol Uruguay the seizure of the painting.
7) Interpol Uruguay confirm the location and successfully plan and execute a procedure to hold the responsibles and retrieve the painting.
Confirmado: el cuadro recuperado es el que robaron hace 35 años del Museo Estevez
POR · 7 NOVIEMBRE, 2018
A good practice

1) An accurate and updated inventory of the Firma y Odilo Estevez Applied Art Museum’s collections.

2) Theft statement at the Police Department.

3) Clear and precise information provided by the Museum, including a photography.

4) A National Database of stolen artworks, including historical thefts.
A good practice

5) COOPERATION

a) At national level: a strong understanding among the Museum, Police, Justice, Culture and Foreign Affaires Ministries, through the Argentinian National Committee against illicit trafficking of cultural goods.

b) At international level: a willingly commitment between Argentina and Uruguay, and particularly between Interpol Argentina e Interpol Uruguay.
¡Muchas gracias!

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