

## Picassos Stolen in Paris

Two paintings by Picasso were stolen from the Paris home of his granddaughter Diana Widmaier-Picasso. The two oils, *Maya with a Doll* (1938) and *Portrait of Jacqueline* (1961) are valued at approximately \$66 million and were taken along with other artwork. Widmaier-Picasso was reportedly at home asleep during the theft, which occurred in late February.

The theft is reminiscent of the pieces that were stolen from granddaughter Marina Picasso's Cannes home in 1989. The works, valued at approximately \$17 million, were recovered the same year. Seven oils stolen from a Zurich gallery in 1994 have yet to be recovered, and the Art Loss Register lists over 549 missing Picassos in its database. The artist was extremely prolific, creating over 20,000 paintings, drawings, lithographs, and ceramics.

Although few details of the burglary have been released, it appears to be the work of professionals, as the alarm appeared to be neutralized and there were no obvious signs of a break in. Experts believe this was a "theft to order" as these iconic works would be quickly recognized by any dealer or auction house.

JSIS Insurance, April 2007