

Micro colour-codes secure against art forgery

SECUART provides proof of authenticity for both artwork and certificates.

Counterfeits continue to infiltrate the fine art market mainly due to the fact that it's easier than ever to copy valuable popular collectables such as picture prints as many only contain a serial number and the artists signature.

Germany (Nottuln), based 3S Simons Security Systems GmbH has developed SECUART, a protection solution that identifies paintings, sculptures, art prints, antiques and other forms of artwork as originals. Archivists and experts can identify art objects and unambiguously attribute expertise to a certain artwork; counterfeits are quickly detected.

Artists can secure their artwork during the creative process. Museums and galleries can also mark their collections themselves or have them subsequently secured. SECUART is based on the world's smallest micro colour-codes SECUTAG®, consisting of melamine alkyd polymers.

The codes are applied onto various materials through different transfer media. Each artist or gallery owner receives an individual micro colour-code that attributes certificates to the respective exhibit.

The technology is invisible to the naked eye and can therefore be applied onto the artwork without leaving visual marks. Costly analysis methods or instruments are not required for authentication; a simple microscope suffices for the identification of SECUART.

The colour-codes are accepted as evidence by international courts and have been counterfeit-proof for 15 years. Therefore the protection strategy can be openly communicated without risk. Artist and owner are both protected against forgery of their artwork.

Successful application of SECUART

SECUART stands the test in practice: The painter and sculptor Rolf Knie belongs to a well-known Swiss circus family. The circus ring is also the leading theme of his art. Several years ago, Rolf Knie was confronted with art forgery: "Some of my lithographs and serigraphs were being sold at an impossible price. I found out that a counterfeiter had copied my artwork." Since then, Rolf Knie successfully secures his work with the micro colour-code technology. "With today's state of the art it is not so difficult to forge lithographs or serigraphs. This is why I protect my originals with colour-codes. And this, in turn, protects me and my customers."

For further information on Rolf Knie and his artwork, please visit www.rolfknie.ch (The editor recommends that you move your mouse pointer over the home page for the best viewing experience!)

For further information on legally binding counterfeit detection on SECUART visit www.3Sgmbh.com or download the 3S white paper on the use of micro colour codes at www.productandimagesecurity.org