WHY WAS A HUGE SALVADOR DALÍ BOOK COVER STOLEN FROM A FRENCH MUSEUM?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Thieves have stolen a bronze book cover designed by the artist Salvador Dalí from a small museum in central France. The cover weighs about 330 pounds, or 150 kilograms, and is covered with unusual materials including bronze, gems, pearls, forks and seashells. It was made for Livre de l'Apocalypse, a huge illustrated book created between 1958 and 1961 by a group of artists and writers. The book was inspired by the biblical Book of Revelation. It travelled to nearly 150 exhibitions around the world, including the 1964 World's Fair in New York. The thieves broke through the museum's gate and smashed the display case, but left the book's pages and other pieces behind. Police are investigating how anyone managed to remove such a heavy object. The stolen cover is valuable, but its historical and artistic importance may make it impossible to replace.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

Museums protect objects that tell stories about religion, art, technology and society. This theft shows that cultural heritage is not always an ancient statue or medieval manuscript. A modern artwork can also become part of history, especially when it records the ideas and styles of its own time.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"Why can a modern artwork become an important piece of history?"

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/thieves-pulled-off-another-shocking-art-heist-in-france-this-time-they-took-a-330-pound-bronze-book-cover-designed-