# Stolen Banksy artwork worth £270,000 recovered after London gallery burglary



A Banksy artwork valued at £270,000, titled "Girl with Balloon," was stolen from the Grove Gallery in London but has since been recovered by police. The Metropolitan Police's Flying Squad retrieved the piece, which was the sole item taken during the burglary at the gallery. Two men, James Love, 54, and Larry Fraser, 47, have been charged with non-residential burglary in connection with the theft and are due to appear at Kingston Crown Court on October 9.

The theft unfolded when a masked man was caught on CCTV smashing a glass door to gain entry into the gallery. The stolen Banksy was part of an exhibition named "Breakout: Banksy’s London Rebellion," which showcased a £1.5 million collection of works by the elusive street artist. Prosecutors allege that Love, who is known to have a collection of love heart-themed artworks, orchestrated the theft to add the "Girl with Balloon" print to his private collection.

According to court sources, the night watchman was "startled" to find the large painting placed oddly by an interior doorway, a spot where it had not been earlier in the evening, raising the alarm about the unusual movement of the artwork. The recovery of the piece was a significant development, given its high value and cultural importance.

Both men have been remanded in custody ahead of their court appearance. The case signals ongoing concerns over the security of high-value art collections in London galleries, especially those showcasing works from world-renowned artists like Banksy.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/builder-stole-banksy-grove-gallery-london-court-b1247832.html), [[7]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/stolen-banksy-girl-with-balloon-painting-found-2024-09-13/), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/builder-stole-banksy-grove-gallery-london-court-b1247832.html), [[5]](https://www.usnews.com/news/entertainment/articles/2024-09-13/2-men-charged-with-stealing-a-famous-banksy-image-from-a-london-art-gallery)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/banksy-thief-video-london-gallery-girl-with-balloon-art-b2612279.html), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2024/sep/13/men-charged-banksy-artwork-girl-with-balloon-stolen-london-gallery), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/banksy-painting-stolen-girl-with-balloon-london-gallery-two-charged-b1181821.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/builder-stole-banksy-grove-gallery-london-court-b1247832.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/builder-stole-banksy-grove-gallery-london-court-b1247832.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/banksy-thief-video-london-gallery-girl-with-balloon-art-b2612279.html), [[7]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/stolen-banksy-girl-with-balloon-painting-found-2024-09-13/), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2024/sep/13/men-charged-banksy-artwork-girl-with-balloon-stolen-london-gallery), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/banksy-painting-stolen-girl-with-balloon-london-gallery-two-charged-b1181821.html)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/builder-stole-banksy-grove-gallery-london-court-b1247832.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/builder-stole-banksy-grove-gallery-london-court-b1247832.html> - A builder, James Love, 54, is accused of stealing a £270,000 'Girl with Balloon' Banksy print from the Grove Gallery in London. Prosecutors allege that Love, who has a collection of love heart-themed artworks, orchestrated the theft to add this piece to his collection. The artwork was recovered by the Metropolitan Police's Flying Squad. Larry Fraser, 48, has pleaded guilty to burglary in connection with the theft. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/builder-stole-banksy-grove-gallery-london-court-b1247832.html?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2024/sep/13/men-charged-banksy-artwork-girl-with-balloon-stolen-london-gallery> - Larry Fraser, 47, and James Love, 53, have been charged with non-residential burglary after allegedly stealing a 'Girl with Balloon' print valued at £270,000 from the Grove Gallery in London. The artwork was part of an exhibition showcasing a £1.5 million collection of Banksy pieces. The two men were remanded in police custody and are scheduled to appear at Kingston Crown Court on October 9. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2024/sep/13/men-charged-banksy-artwork-girl-with-balloon-stolen-london-gallery?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/banksy-thief-video-london-gallery-girl-with-balloon-art-b2612279.html> - CCTV footage shows a masked man smashing a glass door and stealing a 'Girl with Balloon' Banksy print from the Grove Gallery in London. Larry Fraser, 47, and James Love, 53, have been charged with burglary in connection with the theft. The artwork, valued at £270,000, was recovered by the Metropolitan Police's Flying Squad. ([independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/banksy-thief-video-london-gallery-girl-with-balloon-art-b2612279.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.usnews.com/news/entertainment/articles/2024-09-13/2-men-charged-with-stealing-a-famous-banksy-image-from-a-london-art-gallery> - Two men, Larry Fraser, 47, and James Love, 53, have been charged with burglary after allegedly stealing a 'Girl with Balloon' Banksy print valued at £270,000 from the Grove Gallery in London. The artwork was recovered by the Metropolitan Police's Flying Squad. The two men are scheduled to appear at Kingston Crown Court on October 9. ([usnews.com](https://www.usnews.com/news/entertainment/articles/2024-09-13/2-men-charged-with-stealing-a-famous-banksy-image-from-a-london-art-gallery?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/banksy-painting-stolen-girl-with-balloon-london-gallery-two-charged-b1181821.html> - Larry Fraser, 47, and James Love, 53, are accused of non-residential burglary after allegedly breaking into the Grove Gallery in London and stealing a 'Girl with Balloon' print valued at £270,000. The artwork was part of an exhibition titled 'Breakout: Banksy’s London Rebellion'. The two men have been remanded in custody and are scheduled to appear at Kingston Crown Court on October 9. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/banksy-painting-stolen-girl-with-balloon-london-gallery-two-charged-b1181821.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/stolen-banksy-girl-with-balloon-painting-found-2024-09-13/> - A 'Girl with Balloon' Banksy painting, stolen from a London gallery, has been recovered by police. Two men, aged 47 and 53, have been charged with burglary in connection with the theft. The artwork, valued at £270,000, was the only item stolen and has been returned to the gallery. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/stolen-banksy-girl-with-balloon-painting-found-2024-09-13/?utm_source=openai))