

CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

-against-

Eugene Alexander (M 54),

Defendant.

FELONY

ADA Matthew Bogdanos
(212)335-9323

Special Agent Robert Fromkin, Shield # 8614 of the Department of Homeland Security - Homeland Security Investigations, states as follows:

The defendant is charged with:

PL 105.10(1)

Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree
(defendant # 1 : 1 count)

At the times and places described below in the County and State of New York, the defendant, with intent that conduct constituting a class B or C felony be performed, agreed with one or more persons to engage in and cause the performance of such conduct;

The factual basis for this charge is as follows:

Defendant Eugene Alexander, a/k/a Evgeni Svetoslavov Mutafchiev, is a dual Bulgarian and American citizen who began selling art and antiquities in Munich in the 1980s and in the United States in the 1990s.

I have reviewed records recovered by the District Attorney's Office as well as by foreign law-enforcement authorities, which include bank records, photographs, correspondence, invoices, and notes that have revealed the structure of an international antiquities trafficking operation in which defendant participated. Local looters operating in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, especially in Greece and Turkiye, would send the defendant photos of freshly excavated, unrestored antiquities. If the defendant purchased an antiquity, it would be smuggled into Germany or London where the antiquities were cleaned and restored by restorers including Flavio Bertolin (near Munich) and Darren Bradbury (London). The defendant also participated with dealers, including Fuat Uzulmez of Artemis Gallery (Munich) and Hubert Lanz of Numismatik Lanz (Graz, Austria), to create false provenance for the antiquities.

The defendant then consigned the antiquities to dealers in the United States, including Michael Ward and others, or sold them directly to collectors such as Michael Steinhardt, using a series of corporations and off-shore banks for payments. On September 8, 2023, Michael Ward pled guilty to Criminal Facilitation in the Fourth Degree for his role

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in conspiring with defendant in this operation. Additionally, after an investigation by the District Attorney of New York County's Antiquities Trafficking Unit (ATU) and the Department of Homeland Security-Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Michael Steinhardt executed a Deferred Prosecution Agreement surrendering 180 stolen antiquities valued at almost \$70 million—many of those antiquities having come from Eugene Alexander and Michael Ward, among others.

As part of a multi-national investigation by the ATU, HSI, and law-enforcement authorities in Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom into Eugene Alexander, Michael Ward, and others, German authorities executed a raid on the defendant's apartment on February 23, 2022, recovering, among many objects, the defendant's digital files. These files included photographs that looters had sent to the defendant of many of these antiquities in which they appear to be freshly looted, prior to being cleaned or restored. It is well-documented that looters and traffickers often take and maintain photographs of an antiquity in its post-looting, pre-restoration state to demonstrate the antiquity's authenticity to potential buyers in the future. The defendant also had photographs sent to him by restorers depicting some of those same antiquities at various stages of the restoration at a later date.

The defendant's digital files as well as statements of at least one co-conspirator also revealed the lengths defendant went through to falsify provenance. I reviewed scans of handwritten notes that appear to be testing potential provenances. Notes about the provenance of a Hellenistic Bronze Bull with Inlaid Silver Eyes that he ultimately sold to Michael Ward, for example, illustrates the creation of one such false provenance. There first appeared in defendant's notes the words, "German privat." But that was crossed out and replaced with, "Swiss collection, acquired from Artemis Gallery in Munich Germany on (date) (1st Gallerie), by there after in the collection of Byron Zoumboulakis. After by descent until 2018." That second entry was also crossed out and replaced by a third version: "Ex collection B.Z., Geneva Switzerland. Acquired from A. Gallery Mun Germany on date (1 Gallery). After by descent until 2018." Ultimately, the invoice issued to Michael Ward on November 2, 2018, listed a fourth provenance: "Ex collection P. Denda, Lausanne Switzerland. Acquired from Artemis Gallery in Munich, Germany on 18.06.1986. There after by descent."

In addition to this example, the digital files also contained false invoices from

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NumismatikLanz and Artemis Gallery dated to the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s on which appear antiquities that the defendant sold, including antiquities that are depicted in looting photographs taken in the 2000s and 2010s, which the defendant received from looters. I reviewed four Numismatik Lanz invoices with sequential invoice numbers: 16366, 16367, 16368, and 16369. Invoices 16366, 16368, and 16369 are all dated 1979 and issued to different buyers, Artemis Gallery, Moritz Rajber, and Dr. A. Atanasov, respectively. It defies credulity to suggest that the defendant acquired all those different antiquities listed on sequential invoices from different sources who all just happened to have sequentially purchased their antiquities from the same dealer more than 40 years ago. The defendant was also in possession of a blank invoice from the same sequence (number 16367). The explanation is simple: the defendant had obviously acquired or was given a stack of blank Numismatik Lanz invoices that he filled in at a later date as needed to create provenance for looted antiquities.

As part of his operation, the defendant used several off-shore companies to sell the looted antiquities to collectors in Europe and the United States. I have reviewed documents recovered during the investigation into Michael Steinhardt that demonstrate that the defendant used multiple companies to sell antiquities. For example, on December 8, 2010, Steinhardt wrote a check to Finagran Establishment, a financial entity headquartered in Lichtenstein. A handwritten note attached to the check in Steinhardt's files states "Michael purchased a number of pieces from Prof. Alexander." A "Finagran" is a specific form of limited liability arrangement in Germany, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein, which allows shareholders to take over an existing company and replace the shareholders, making public only the trustee of the company. Then, starting in 2012, the defendant requested that Steinhardt pay him through E.E. Capital Ltd, a financial entity headquartered in St. Helier, in the Crown Dependency of Jersey. Finally, in 2015, the defendant requested that Steinhardt switch his payments to Fine Arts Management (FAM) Services, an off-shore company headquartered in the Seychelles.

Moreover, based on my review of this material, as well as on interviews of Michael Ward and others, I am also aware that Ward signed false documents to and for the defendant. For example, on the following dates, Ward signed consignment documents indicating he had received looted antiquities from the defendant. According to the consignment documents, on July 30, 2017, Ward received from defendant 89 antiquities

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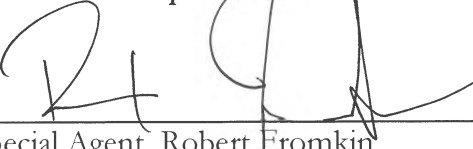
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valued at more than \$20 million; on October 30, 2018, Ward received from defendant 82 antiquities valued at more than \$27 million; and on April 1, 2019, Ward received from defendant 63 antiquities valued at over \$29 million. In fact, and according to Ward, all three documents were false.

Finally, to date, the ATU has executed 8 seizures of 69 antiquities, valued at more \$32 million, trafficked by either Ward or the defendant.

Thus, based on my review of all this material, on interviews of witnesses and co-conspirators, and on the volume of documented transactions involving looted antiquities to and from the defendant, the evidence demonstrates that the defendant, during the period from at least on or about December 8, 2010 (the date of the first check to defendant from Michael Steinhardt), to on or about September 8, 2023 (the date Michael Ward pled guilty), with intent that conduct constituting a class B or C felony be performed, agreed with one or more persons to engage in and cause the performance of such conduct.

False statements made in this written instrument are punishable as a class A misdemeanor pursuant to section 210.45 of the Penal Law, and as other crimes.


Special Agent Robert Fromkin

7/7/25
Date

1048
Time

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