

Reading Comprehension: Tom Keating

In 1979, the painter Tom Keating was arrested and charged with forgery. He was accused of faking and selling a painting by Samuel Palmer, an early nineteenth-century British artist. Everyone in the art world was shocked when Keating admitted faking more than 2,000 paintings by various artists over a period of twenty years. He couldn't remember the exact number. Nor could he remember to whom he had sold them, which meant that many of his fakes could not be traced. As a young man, Keating had been employed by art dealers to make copies of paintings by well-known artists whose original paintings sold for high prices. He was paid very little for this work and assumed that his paintings were being sold for what they were – copies. He then discovered by chance that the dealers who employed him were selling his copies as originals for hundreds of times the price that they paid him. The experience made him very cynical and he decided to take his revenge. He set about producing large numbers of fakes by over a hundred artists, convinced that most art dealers and art critics could not tell the difference between the genuine and the fake.

True or False

1. Keating faked paintings for more than 20 years.
2. Keating was paid very well for his fake paintings.
3. The art world was shocked at Keating's arrest.
4. Art critics could easily identify the fake pictures.
5. Keating only painted copies of Palmer's paintings.
6. As a young man, Keating was employed by the police.
7. Samuel Palmer was a 19th century artist.
8. Keating was arrested in 1979.
9. Keating faked more than 2,000 paintings.
10. Keating was a professor at Oxford University