

LIVE, FROM A POINT IN HISTORY: THE JEWELRY HEIST AT THE LOUVRE

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Breaking News: the world famous, and apparently not entirely impenetrable, Louvre Museum in Paris has been broken into and robbed! An array of Crown Jewels vanished, and French officials have been launched into a dizzying and seemingly relentless chase. What does all of this mean?

On the morning of October 19 at 9:30 AM, a team of four thieves broke into The Louvre and stole several pieces of priceless, historic French jewelry: the variety of which belonged to previous French royals. The heist occurred in broad daylight, and the thieves were disguised as construction workers. The mass majority of visitors were only starting to come into the museum. The heist was executed not even thirty minutes after the time of the museum's opening. The thieves used an extendable ladder positioned on a working truck to reach the second-floor Apollo Gallery, where they then proceeded to use angle grinders in tandem with numerous other tools to break the window and enter the museum.

The group stole a total of eight pieces: a necklace and pair of earring belonging to Empress Marie-Louise; a diadem, a broach, and a decorative bow, all belonging to Napoleon's wife, Empress Eugenie, and a tiara, necklace, and a single earring from a sapphire set that belonged to Marie-Amelie, the final queen of France. All-in-all, the thieves managed to make out with over 1,500 individual diamonds and a generous amount of gemstones, both sapphire and emerald. However, during their dramatic yet graceless exit, they managed to leave behind Empress Eugenie's massively exalted crown, which is comprised of 1,354 diamonds and 56 emeralds. In that same arguably amateur exit, the band discarded multiple garments used for disguise, including gloves, a helmet, vests, and other items, all containing traces of DNA. They then made their getaway on motorbikes, almost eerily identical to something straight out of a spy movie.

Because of the thieves' clean sweep, many have questioned the planning of this grand feat—the entirety of the operation also being performed in a mere seven minutes. From their precise and narrowly timed entrance and exit, to their prior and well-rounded knowledge of the layout of both the galleries and overall positioning of security and potential obstacles, the question of whether they had someone on the inside has been frequently posed. Was it a friend? An officer? Possibly a guide? The jury remains out. In the same sense, two of them remain on the run, yet to be found. Was this heist an opportunistic one, or was it the expertly-executed kind, with even more to it behind the scenes?

Only time will tell, for maybe the “diamond” still remains in the rough.