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District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2014

**KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KENNETH P. THOMPSON
ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT IN STOLEN ART CASE**

DEFENDANT LOUIS LASSALLE CHARGED WITH THEFT OF \$10,000 ARTWORK

Brooklyn, NY -- Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced the indictment of Louis Lassalle for stealing artwork valued at \$10,000. The defendant faces multiple charges of burglary, larceny, robbery, among others. The alleged theft took place March 1st at a Williamsburg art gallery.

“The brazen nature of the theft of this artwork, whether from a business, a home, or anywhere in our community, will not be tolerated. An artist’s work should be showcased, not stolen. Accordingly, Mr. Lassalle will be held accountable for his actions,” said District Attorney Thompson.

Sean Leonard is the co-owner of the Cotton Candy Machine Art Gallery, located at 235 South First Street in Williamsburg. According to what was stated in court, on March 1, 2014, at approximately 8:25 pm, Leonard noticed three paintings were missing from the storage room in the back of the gallery during an exhibition in the main gallery. The missing paintings by artist Amar Stewart depicted portraits of artist Jean Michel Basquiat, Nelson Mandela and rapper, Snoop Lion (previous AKA Snoop Dogg).

According to what was stated in court, Mr. Leonard observed the defendant Mr. Lassalle standing next to one of the missing paintings, confronted Mr. Lassalle and called 911. Mr. Lassalle allegedly began running away, leaving the painting behind. Mr. Leonard recovered the painting and continued to follow Mr. Lassalle, until the police apprehended him, several blocks away. The two other paintings have not been recovered. If convicted, Mr. Lassalle faces 2 1/3rd - 7 years in prison.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Danielle Reddan under the supervision of Timothy Gough, Bureau Chief of the Grey Zone Trial Bureau.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

Defendant Information:

Louis Lassalle, DOB: 01/05/65

Charges:

- Burglary in the Third Degree, a class D felony
- Robbery in the Third Degree, a class D felony
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, a class D felony
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree, a class A misdemeanor
- Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor
- Criminal Trespass in the Third Degree, a class B misdemeanor

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