

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 15, 2011

## Alleged Art Thief arraigned

A Medford man arrested in connection with six art thefts involving approximately forty paintings and lithographs from east end homes pleaded not guilty to second degree burglary and grand larceny charges Friday in Suffolk County court.

District Attorney Thomas Spota said the indictment charged Angel Palencia, 24, of 16 North Dunton Avenue, Medford, with six counts of Burglary in the Second Degree (a class C violent felony with a maximum of 15 years and a minimum of three and one-half years imprisonment) and one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree (a class C nonviolent felony with a maximum of 5-15 years).

DA Spota said the total value of the recovered stolen art and valuables', including a silver tea set and a book of French stamps, is approximately \$550,000 to \$600,000, based on appraisals and insurance company payments to date.

"The defendant sold one of the works stolen from a Lily Pond, East Hampton home, a Daniel Ridgeway- Knight painting entitled In the Vineyard, worth \$140,000.00, for \$1,500 to a Mineola Antiques dealer," Spota said. The district attorney said Palencia most often gained entry to the homes via unlocked doors and open or unlocked windows.

"He had worked as a carpenter at the Southold home on Soundview Avenue and detectives believe he entered the premises through an unlocked window," Spota said.

Palencia is incarcerated in lieu of \$500,000 cash bail in the county jail.



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## *ART THEFT SUSPECT*



ANGEL GIOVANNI PALENCIA



A criminal charge is merely an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



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