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Hub police have art theft clues, descriptions

By Seymour Linscott
Globe Staff

Boston police and the FBI have detailed descriptions and other evidence to go on in their search for two gunmen who stole a Rembrandt painting worth at least \$500,000 from the Museum of Fine Arts yesterday.

The descriptions, supplied by various witnesses, are good enough so that composite drawings of the two men were to be put together for circulation to law enforcement agencies around the country and abroad.

In addition, according to security officials at the museum, four pieces broken from the picture's frame were found at the Fenway exit where the gunmen fled and escaped in a car parked outside with a third man at the wheel.

The frame apparently was broken when the men jammed it in their haste to get through a turnstile at the exit.

One of the pieces was described as "fairly large." All were big enough to hold out the hope that they may yield fingerprints of the thieves.

Police also have the car believed used for the getaway. A gold-colored Ford Torino, it bore the same rear license plate number that witnesses furnished. The front plate was different.

The car was found at 4 a.m. on Station street near Roxbury Crossing. It had been reported stolen earlier by Norwood police, who said it originally carried New Hampshire plates.

No evidence was found in the vehicle. It is being dusted for fingerprints.

Besides this, authorities

have a rubber glove, apparently dropped inside the museum by one of the gunmen, and a spent bullet also recovered inside the building.

The glove was found on the stairway from the second-floor gallery in the Evans wing on the Fenway side of the museum, where the painting, "Portrait of Elizabeth Van Rijn," was hanging.

As they fled the thieves fired several shots, apparently into the air, to scare off guard John J. Monkouski, 66, who tried to stop one man at the exit and chased him down stairs to the waiting getaway car.

Monkouski, who spent 31 years as a Boston policeman before joining the museum staff a year ago, was slugged over the head with a gun butt and needed treatment at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

The gunmen were gen-

erally described as white, in their 20s. One had long blond hair and was wearing a three-quarter length tan car coat. The other had on a short jacket and a leather chauffeur-type cap.

Both carried 9 mm pistols.

A second guard, Vito Magaletta, 53, of Medford, came upon the two as they were removing the painting from two hooks on the gallery wall.

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