

\$1m inspires flood of art-theft tips

Gardner Museum reopens to crowd of curious; Dutch Room off-limits

By Peter S. Canellos
and Andy Dabilis
GLOBE STAFF

Calls from people offering tips on the whereabouts of the 13 art treasures stolen Sunday from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum began pouring in to authorities yesterday, the day after two art auction houses offered a \$1 million reward for information leading to their recovery.

FBI spokesman Paul Cavanagh said the agency will check out every tip, and remains optimistic that the works, valued

in the hundreds of millions of dollars, will be returned to the museum.

A larger-than-usual crowd yesterday toured the palazzo-style museum, open for the first time since the robbery. But visitors, held back by a mustard-yellow slice of police tape, could only gaze through windows into the Dutch Room, where masterpieces like Jan Vermeer's "The Concert" and Rembrandt's "Storm on the Sea of Galilee" were missing from the walls.

Gift-shop workers reported a run on post cards of the stolen works and posters of "The Concert."

Meanwhile, authorities began distributing copies of composite drawings of the two men who, posing as policemen, convinced security guards to let them into the museum on the Fenway. The thieves then subdued the guards with Mace and foiled the museum's electronic alarm system, police said.

The two guards, both college students, were back at work yesterday, according to museum director Anne Hawley.

She said the guards, whose names are

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