

Bored security guard

L1-2 Functional English: reading, writing & discussion

Name _____ Date _____

Source: <https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/09/bored-security-guard-draws-eyes-on-740000-painting-in-gallery-16077453/>

Bored security guard drew eyes in Biro on faceless painting on first day in job



Sian Elvin Wednesday 9 Feb 2022 5:57 pm



Eyes were added to faceless figures in Anna Leporskaya's painting (Picture: News Flash)

A security guard has been fired after defacing a valuable modern art painting on his first day working at an art gallery.

The artwork was insured for 74.9 million rubles – the equivalent of £740,000 – and was on display at the Yeltsin Centre, in the city of Yekaterinburg in the Sverdlovsk Oblast region in west-central Russia.

The damage is believed to have occurred on December 7, 2021, when the security guard is accused of drawing eyes with ballpoint pen on two of the three faceless figures in the painting.

But the employee, who worked for a private security company and is in his 60s, is said to have been sacked since his identity was discovered this week.

The Yeltsin Centre said in a statement released yesterday: 'We inform you that during the investigation, the person who painted the eyes on the figures in the painting by Anna Leporskaya was identified – this is an employee of a private security organisation that carries out security activities of the Yeltsin Centre.'

Bored security guard

L1-2 Functional English: reading, writing & discussion

Name _____ Date _____

Source: <https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/09/bored-security-guard-draws-eyes-on-740000-painting-in-gallery-16077453/>

‘The damage was done with a ballpoint pen.’

The painting was by Anna Leporskaya, a student of Russian avant-garde artist Kazimir Malevich.

The painting, called ‘Three Figures’ (1932-1934) from the Tretyakov Gallery collection, was damaged during an exhibition called ‘The World as Non-Objectivity. The Birth of a New Art.’



It is believed the damage to the painting can be fixed (Picture: News Flash)

Experts are currently working on restoring the painting, which the security company is reportedly paying for.

The restoration expert at the State Tretyakov Gallery believes the damage can be fixed without any long-term damage to the artwork.

Local police opened an investigation for vandalism, which could come with a fine of 40,000 rubles (£395) and a one-year correctional labour sentence.

Anna Leporskaya (1900-1982) was a student of renowned avant-garde Russian artist Kazimir Malevich (1879-1935). She also worked with other avant-garde artists, including Nikolai Suetin and Lev Yudin.

Bored security guard

E3-L2 Functional English: reading, writing & discussion

Name _____ Date _____



Reading questions

- 1) How was the painting damaged and what was used to damage it?
- 2) How old is the person who is accused of damaging the painting?
- 3) What is the name of the painting?
- 4) What year did the artist, Anna Leporskaya, die?
- 5) How much is the painting worth?
- 6) Find two informal words that mean the guard has been dismissed.
- 7) Find two words that mean 'repaired'. Are they formal or informal?
- 8) According to the story, what could the guard's sentence be?
- 9) Name two organisational features used in the text.
- 10) What is the purpose of the two commas in this sentence?
But the employee, who worked for a private security company and is in his 60s, is said to have been sacked since his identity was discovered this week.

Bored security guard

E3-L2 Functional English: reading, writing & discussion

Name _____ Date _____



Discussion

Do you think the guard should be punished for his actions?

What should his punishment be?

Writing tasks (Use lined paper)

Choose one of the following tasks:

- a) Write an article/blog post for a prison or college newspaper, giving advice on how to cope with boredom.
- b) Write a letter of application for a security guard job at the Yeltsin Centre art gallery.
- c) What was your most boring job? Describe it.