

AUTHENTICATION IN ART

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THE  TIMES

It beggars belief: Hogarth work is ‘fake’

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October 23 2016, 12:01am, The Sunday Times



A version of Hogarth's *A Scene from The Beggar's Opera*, donated to a Washington gallery, is said to lack the 'finesse' of four other versions of the work. NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART WASHINGTON DC

A painting by the British artist William Hogarth, which was donated to a Washington art gallery by an American philanthropist, has been judged a fake in a study funded by his own charity.

Paul Mellon, whose grandfather built a banking fortune and whose father established the National Gallery of Art (NGA), gave a version of A Scene from The Beggar's Opera, one of the 18th-century satirical artist's best-known works, to the gallery in 1983.

The British Hogarth expert Elizabeth Einberg will say in a new book, *William Hogarth: A Complete Catalogue of the Paintings*, to be published on November 8...