



AiA Art News-service



‘Genuine’ Da Vinci ‘sold’ for €72m on classified ads site Avito

The seller says that the painting, titled *A Young Girl in Furs*, was authenticated by the Stockholm art valuation firm Atelje Catellani

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A Russian man who advertised a “genuine” work by Leonardo da Vinci on Avito (a Russian classified ads site similar to eBay) for more than €72m says that he has found a buyer. “Dmitry”, from the town of Mamonovo in the Kaliningrad region, says that the painting, titled *A Young Girl in Furs*, was authenticated by the Stockholm art valuation firm Atelje Catellani. He posted photos of the accompanying documentation alongside the painting on 1 August.



“Dmitry” found a buyer after posting this ad on Russian site Avito—similar to eBay Avito

Before its removal, four days after it was posted on Avito, the advert read: “Attention: I am selling the original Leonardo da Vinci painting ‘A Girl in Furs’. Location: Germany... estimated value €280m... asking price €72m.”

Asked why he was advertising the painting online instead of through an auction house, Dmitry said: “Why do you find it so strange? I was able to sell it through Avito.”

He refused to explain how he came to own the work, why it is in Germany and who the buyer is.

A spokesman for Atelje Catellani says: “There is nobody entitled to offer the painting. A mandate does not exist; nobody has access to the painting.” The email went on to say that the firm was not entitled to share any further information.

Da Vinci’s Salvator Mundi became the world’s most expensive painting when it sold for \$450m at Christie’s in New York in 2017.

Dmitry's only other ads on Avito—offering materials for project management professional certification and a set of e-books—have now expired.