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IN ART

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## **Banksy artwork stolen from outside Pompidou Centre in Paris**

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Loic Venance, AFP | This picture taken on March 16, 2010 in Paris shows the facade of the Pompidou Centre.

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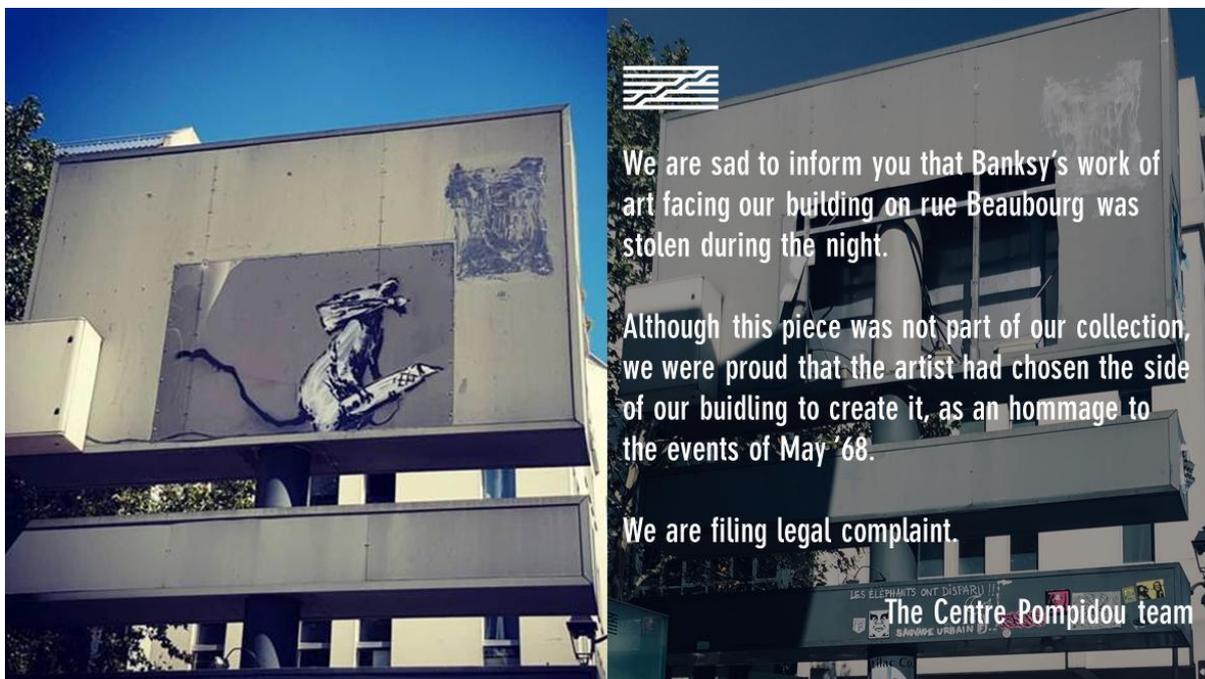
## **A stencilled work by the elusive British street artist Banksy has been stolen from outside the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the modern art museum announced Tuesday.**

The image, which appeared in June 2018 on the back of a sign for the museum's car park, features a masked rat [Banksy's](#) avatar, symbolising the downtrodden brandishing a utility knife, the instrument he uses to cut out his stencils.

The [Pompidou Centre](#) said it suspected the thieves of using a saw to cut the sign, which had been fitted with a plexiglass cover to prevent it being pilfered.

It said the museum's security guards had already caught thieves trying to snatch the work a year ago.

The Pompidou, which houses Europe's biggest collection of contemporary art but does not own the Banksy work, said it had filed a police complaint for destruction of property.



The theft comes seven months after another Banksy oeuvre paying homage to the victims of the [November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris](#) was [stolen from outside the Bataclan](#), the concert venue where Islamic State gunmen massacred 90 people.

There also, the thieves brazenly cut the white stencilled image of a girl in mourning out of a fire exit.

Both the girl and the revolutionary rat were among a dozen works with which Banksy blitzed [Paris](#) a year ago.

The rat was inspired by Paris street artist Blek le Rat, who started out in 1986 when a general strike by students and workers brought [France](#) to a halt.

An anti-capitalist mural in the Left Bank, featuring a businessman in a suit offering a dog a bone after sawing the animal's leg off, has also disappeared.