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# ARTnews

## **Noted Berlin Art Dealer Arrested After Allegedly Selling Fake Painting: Report**



'East is Red' by Zou Cao  
at the Galerie Michael  
Schultz booth at Art  
Cologne in 2012  
OLIVER BERG/EPA/  
SHUTTERSTOCK

After allegedly attempting to peddle a faked painting, an important German art dealer was arrested earlier this month. Prominent Berlin dealer Michael Schultz was taken in by authorities at his Charlottenburg apartment, according to the German publication *Der Tagesspiegel*. Investigators arrested him on suspicion that he may have been selling high-value artworks with counterfeit certificates—and possibly even defrauding collectors as part of the scheme. Authorities also said the dealer, who ran an eponymous gallery in the German capital that shuttered earlier this year, had failed to deliver other works after payment.

The arrest came after authorities discovered what they said was a fake artwork attributed to an artist who was not named in the *Der Tagesspiegel* report. Schultz had previously owned the work, and he was trying to sell it at an unidentified auction house. A collector then purchased it from the house. The report said that, after the artist was contacted, it was determined that the painting was not authentic.

According to the German press agency DPA, the 67-year-old dealer was not imprisoned because of his poor health, but he must regularly check in with authorities before the investigation concludes.

Galerie Michael Schultz was an international operation, at one point running four galleries on two continents, with outposts in Germany and South Korea. His gallery program had a focus on German painting and international contemporary painting and sculpture, and past shows included works by Gerhard Richter, Georg Baselitz, Markus Lüpertz, Anselm Kiefer, and other giants from the country. The gallery was a regular at art fairs such as Art Cologne, Art Basel, and the Armory Show in New York.