

YOU ARE VALUABLE

In December 2014, a stolen Picasso painting – considered lost for years – resurfaced in the United States, where it had been shipped under false pretenses as a \$37 Christmas present labeled as “art craft.”

The 1911 painting, *La Coiffeuse* (The Hairdresser), was discovered in a FedEx shipment from Belgium to Long Island City.

An unknown person going by “Robert” shipped the painting on Dec. 17 from an address in Belgium to a climate-controlled warehouse in Long Island City. The next day, the painting arrived at the Port of Newark and was seized. Federal Customs and Border Protection officials examined the FedEx shipment and found the missing Picasso.

The painting, worth millions of dollars, was stolen in Paris more than a decade ago. It had been smuggled out of a storeroom at the Centre Georges Pompidou.

The U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Lynch (now the U.S. attorney general), filed a civil forfeiture suit to return the painting to France. The work is owned by the French government.



Pablo Picasso was a Spanish sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, stage designer, poet and playwright who spent most of his adult life in France. He is regarded as one of the greatest and most influential artists of the 20th century.

Simply affixing a false label and value to the package didn't change the inherent value of the painting inside.

Perhaps you've been labeled in a way that devalues you as a person. That's unfortunate, but also wrong. The Bible clearly proclaims that we are made in God's image. Like a valuable masterpiece signed by a famous artist, our likeness to God is God's signature that brings value to our lives.

You are not a mistake or an accident. Those are false labels. When God created you in His image, He saw that “it was very good.”

God has affirmed your worth to Him.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth (Genesis 1:26 KJV).