

## **Man jailed for two years for vandalising £5m Rothko at Tate Modern.**

*A man who vandalised one of Tate Modern's most cherished Mark Rothko paintings has been jailed for two years for actions the judge described as "entirely deliberate, planned and intentional".*

Wlodzimierz Umaniec, also known as Vladimir Umanets, a 26-year-old Polish national who lives in Worthing, West Sussex, pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to criminal damage in excess of £5,000. In this case it was well in excess, with estimates suggesting it will cost more than £200,000 and 20 months to restore.

Judge Roger Chapple, at Inner London crown court, said it was "abundantly clear" that Umaniec was "plainly an intelligent man" who regarded Rothko as a "great painter". Rothko's Seagram murals, originally planned for the Four Seasons restaurant in New York, were a gift to the Tate by the artist in 1969 and are regarded as some of Tate Modern's most important works.

The court heard that Umaniec went to the gallery intending to put his "signature" on a picture, but decided to damage the Rothko painting only at the time he saw it on display. Chapple said the incident had led to galleries reviewing security arrangements at a cost to themselves and the taxpayer. "The effects of such security reviews is to distance the public from the works of art they come to enjoy," he said.

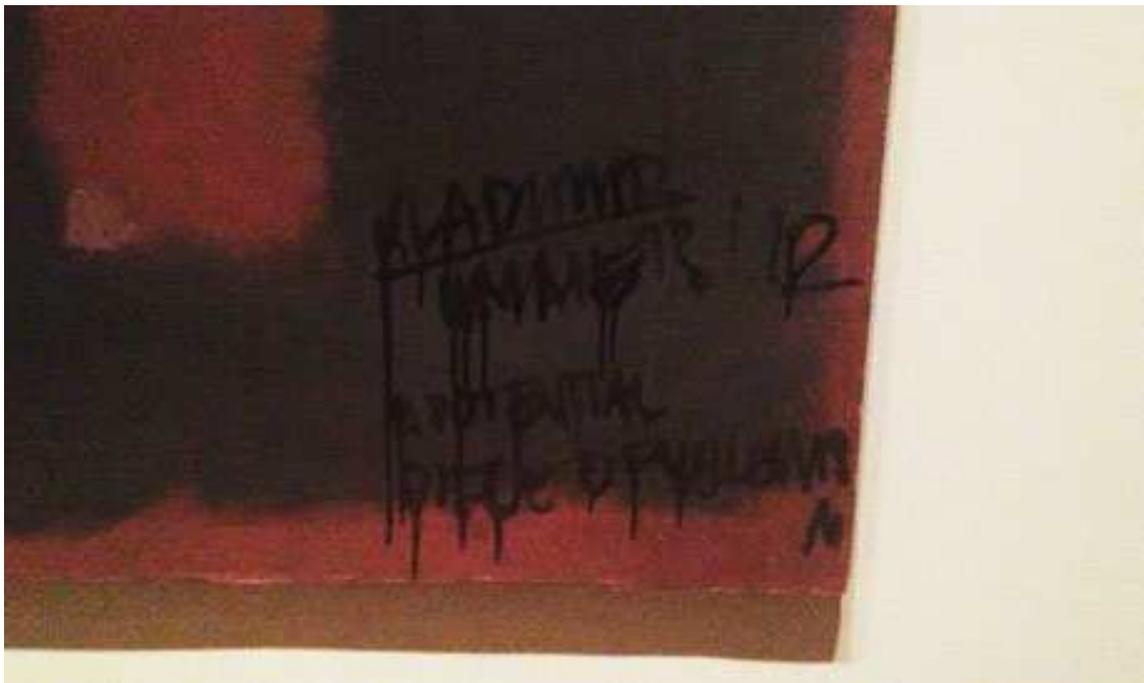
Gregor McKinley, prosecuting, said: "Sotheby's has given Tate Modern a verbal estimate of pre-damage value of approximately between £5m to just over £9m." The restoration will be long and difficult, not least because Rothko often used unusual materials, including eggs and glue, to create his works.

*Adapted from, [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com), December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

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Mark Rothko. 'Black On Maroon' painting was defaced. Photo Jane Mingay  
[www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)



The graffiti on the painting appears to read : 'Vladimir Umaniec a potential piece of yellowism'.  
[www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)

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