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据德国媒体报道，1500 多幅出自毕加索、马蒂斯和夏卡尔之手的名画在慕尼黑的一所公寓里献身。据估计这批“失而复得”的画作价值约为 13.5 亿美元。请听驻柏林记者 Steve Evans 的报道。

The collection of works the Nazis stole from Jews was **consigned** to a dealer to be sold before the war. But the paintings then **vanished**; **presumed** destroyed.

The works consist of what the Nazis **deemed** 'degenerate art', that is, modern art. It now **transpires** that two years ago the authorities discovered this amazing and **priceless** collection in darkened rooms at the home of a **reclusive** relative of the **pre-war** dealer.

It seems the relative had been selling paintings occasionally, when he needed money. One work by the German **expressionist** Max Beckmann was sold two years ago for more than three-quarters of a million Euros.

The authorities have kept quiet, partly because ownership would be disputed. A **mountain of litigation** is no doubt on the way.

Questions

1. True or false? *People thought the art, stolen by the Nazis, had been destroyed.*
2. How much is this collection of art worth?
3. When was this art collection discovered?
4. Why have the authorities not mentioned this discovery before?

Vocabulary and definitions

consigned	托付给了某人
vanished	消失了
presumed	(不肯定的) 推测、认为
deemed	认为, 相信
degenerate	堕落的
transpires	(秘密) 泄露、为人所知
priceless	无价的, 极宝贵的
reclusive	隐居的、独居的
pre-war	战前的 (此处指二战前的)
expressionist	表现主义艺术家
mountain of litigation	大量的官司和诉讼

Answers to the questions:

1. True or false? *People thought the art, stolen by the Nazis, had been destroyed.*
Answer: True. They were presumed destroyed.
2. How much is this art collection worth?
Answer: It is priceless. The collection is impossible to put a value on.
3. When was this art collection discovered?
Answer: Two years ago.
4. Why have the authorities not mentioned this discovery before?
Answer: They were worried there would a dispute about who owns it.