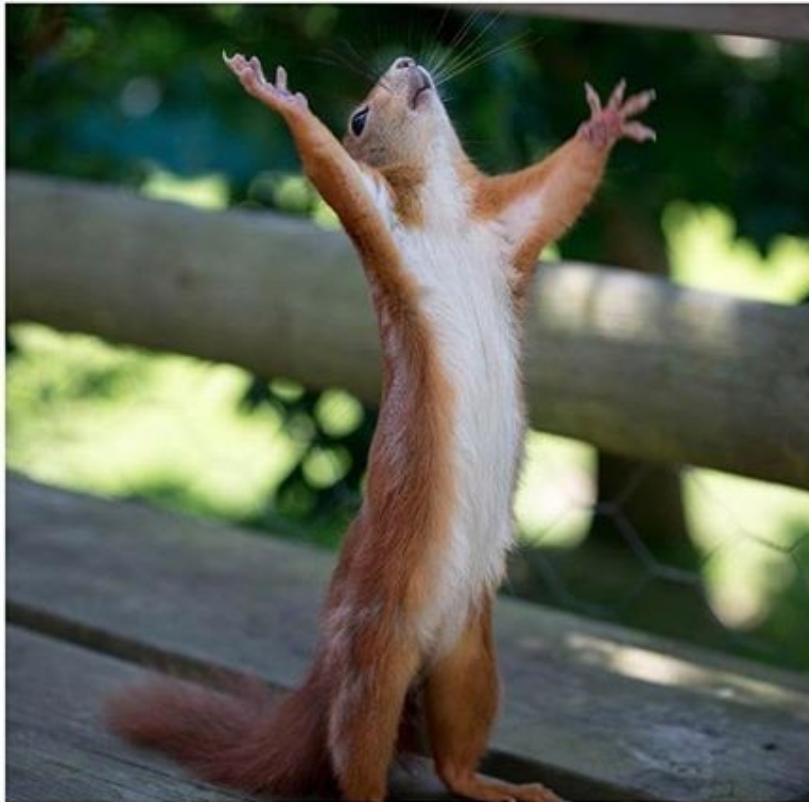


**IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK**



**FOR YOU TO NOT TOUCH  
THE ART?!?**

Remember when your mom or your dad said to you, "DON'T TOUCH!" This reprimand came to mind when reading a recent article about a piece of Italian art that was damaged because someone didn't heed this warning. Here's the story.....

A historic sculpture in  
a museum in Northern  
Italy is now missing

some of its toes, thanks to an overeager Austrian tourist. The man damaged the 200-year-old sculpture while sitting on the display and trying to mimic the pose for a photo op. Vandalizing art in Italy can result in



a sentence of up to eight years in prison and a 100,000 euro fine. Whether or not the tourist and his wife will be charged has yet to be determined.

Surely this isn't the first piece of art damaged or destroyed by, dare we say it, stupid people? The answer, unfortunately, is NO, it isn't! Here are just a few of the hundreds of incidences that have occurred over the years.....



Two tourists in Cremona in northern Italy landed in the soup after they broke off a piece of a priceless statue entitled the Two Hercules, which dates back to the 1700s, while trying to climb it to take a selfie. The crown collapsed under the weight of the men causing it to fall to the floor. The two men discovered the hard way

that the marble did not have Herculean strength. The perpetrators faced criminal charges.

Two American women were arrested for vandalizing Rome's Colosseum. The pair aged, 21 and 25, carved their 8-in high initials (J and N) into the stone with a coin and took a selfie with the damaged wall. The cost of that selfie: a 20,000 euro fine!





A student broke off the leg of a 19th-century cast of an ancient Greek work entitled the Druken Satyr at Milan's Academy of Fine Arts of Brera when he tried hopping in its lap to snap some selfies. His supreme lack of common sense was caught on security video cameras, but it's unclear if the student got his desired shot before shattering the statue's leg.

And, now for the final example. Though it didn't take place in Italy and the art wasn't damaged or destroyed, the story is just too funny not to include.

In 2014, firefighters were called to Tubingen University in Germany where someone was "stuck in a stone vulva." What seemed like a good photo op, ended up in embarrassment for an American student who got trapped inside the 32-ton red Veronese marble sculpture in the shape of a vagina. It took 22 firemen and paramedics to extricate the student from the sculpture creating a surreal, oversize delivery room scene with the artwork giving birth to a full-grown—though perhaps quite immature—man. The major of the town found it difficult to comprehend how such a ridiculous accident could have occurred "even when considering the most extreme adolescent fantasies."



Based on the above stories, a piece of advice when you next travel to Italy: Don't touch the art if you don't want to be arrested, fined, put in jail, embarrassed or having to explain to your friends how you REALLY spent your vacation in Italy!!!

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