Anatomy of a heist

On March 18, 1990, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum was robbed of 13 valuable works of art by two thieves dressed as police officers.

**Minute by minute:**
Reconstruction based on alarm times and eyewitness accounts.

**Short Gallery**
Six items stolen:
- Degas, "La Sortie du Pelage," pencil and watercolor on paper
- Degas, "Cortège Aux Environ de Florence," pencil, wash on paper
- Degas, "Three Mounted Jockeys," black ink, washes, oil on paper
- Degas, "Program for an Artistic Soiree," charcoal on paper
- Degas, "Program for an Artistic Soiree," unfinished, charcoal on paper
- Gilded finial atop a Napoleonic banner

**2nd Floor**
- Tapestry Room
- Raphael Room
- Early Italian Room
- Stair hallway
- Courtyard
- Main staircase
- Individual movements
- Group movements

**Start of burglary**
The two thieves were let in by guards through this door at 2 Palace Road.

**Getting inside**
It takes the thieves 24 minutes to tie up the guards and take them to the basement.

**Grabbing the goods**
Sometime during the 45-minute spree throughout the second floor, a Manet painting is stolen from the Blue Room. It is unclear when it was taken.

**Dutch Room**
Six items stolen:
- Vermeer, "The Concert," Oil on canvas
- Rembrandt, "A Lady and Gentleman in Black," oil on canvas
- Rembrandt, "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee," oil on canvas
- Rembrandt, "Self Portrait," etching
- Govaert Flinck, "Landscape With an Obelisk," Oil on oak panel
- Chinese bronze beaker or "Ku," Shang Dynasty, 1200-1100 BC

**The Loot**
12 minutes to bundle the art and be gone.

**The Escape**
2:45
Inside door opens again, followed by the outside door. Investigators say this may indicate that the two thieves left separately within four minutes of one another.