



Detective Polly Paddington is always looking for a mystery to solve. Though today, she was continuing her global journey. She planned out this year with her friend, Emily, who wrote a blog about travel and fun activities. Their next stop was Fiji.

They started their journey by checking in at the hotel. The front desk lady greeted them by saying, “Bula! (*hello*). Welcome to the Fiji Resort. We have your room ready for you. You will be escorted on golf carts to the Turtle House Villa area.”

“Thank you so much,” said Polly.

After they entered the room, they looked over their agenda for the next few days. They wanted to go snorkeling, sailing, and site seeing around town.

First, they were going to a gala at an art gallery that has a variety of artwork by local Fijian artists. The items are one of a kind unique paintings, collage art, wood carving, pottery, jewelry and sculptures.

On display this month was one of Fiji's most prominent visual artists, Tamara Mova. She is known for her vibrant, contemporary paintings and collage art using different textures and paper. Her latest release is a clown fish swimming among the coral reef of Fiji.

After a short taxi ride from the hotel, they arrived at the gallery, tickets in hand. Next, they were assigned a personal docent (*tour guide*) for the tour. Emily and Polly slid into their group of attendees. They were handed a brochure and a yellow paper bracelet for admission through the gallery.

As they were fastening their bracelets on, they heard a mad huffing noise. Emily glanced over and saw woman in a tan jacket talking to teenage boy. As the woman leaned over to pick up her purse, she saw a flash of a name badge secured inside her jacket.

Polly turned to her and said, “Hi, I am Polly and this is my friend Emily.” As she shook her hand, she noticed the name badge was for the art gallery they were in.

“Hi, I am Vera and this is my son, Tony,” she said.

“I noticed you have a badge for the art gallery. Are you one of our tour guides today?” Polly asked.

“Oh no, I was here earlier in the day and my son wanted to see the exhibit, so I’m back! My sister is the famous artist that created the fish collage painting,” she said in a nervous voice.

Tony mumbled under his breath, “Mom, you made me come——”

Vera cut him off and said, “Nonsense! You have been talking about seeing your aunt’s artwork for a school project all month.” “Well, I see the tour is starting....we best be moving along.”

Though, as Polly was looking at the artwork, she was not positive that the fish picture was as detailed as some of the other art they saw on the tour by Tamara Mova. She immediately began comparing the picture on the brochure to the picture on the wall and noticed some differences. The art gallery was definitely displaying a fake—but where was the real one?

Polly moved to the front of the room by the painting and declared, “Everyone, can I have your attention? This piece of art is not real! The one on display is a fake. If you carefully look at your brochure, you can see that the copied one did not use the correct supplies and cut corners on collage materials within the design. Due to it only having black, white and shades of gray in it, I assume they thought it wouldn’t be as noticeable to view from a distance.”

Two ladies moved forward and said, “That’s hogwash, I don’t see any difference from the brochure and the art on the wall.”

“I agree, this is crazy! My sister changes her art all the time, placing last minute adjustments on the design. The brochure picture is from an earlier version of her creation,” declared Vera.

“Polly is a well known detective in the America. Let’s see what she has to say and try to determine what is going on with it,” said Emily.

“First, we need to close the gallery and make sure no one leaves or comes in. I need to see the head curator of the gallery as well,” stated Polly.

Vera stepped forward and said, “This is the last tour of the day, so the only people in the gallery right now are in is this group. I can move them to the snack room while you talk to the curator.”

Vera started gathering the group up and headed toward the snack room. In the meantime, the curator appeared. Polly introduced herself and began asking questions.

“Sandy, we are wondering if the image on the brochure is a current photo that we could use to compare the picture on the wall to the original. In addition, what position does Vera hold at the gallery? I would like to know her duties and if she worked today. She also says she is the sister of the artist,” asked Polly.

“Yes, the photo was taken last week once the display was up. It was then sent to the printer. Vera is a part-time Art Handler. Her duties include: assisting with incoming and outgoing art, preparing the gallery spaces for exhibits, and assisting in hosting events. She was not on the schedule to work today since we have the gala this weekend. She is the sister of the artist. But, I have never seen them together without them arguing. There seems to be a little jealousy between them. It could be due to this show. Vera had submitted some of her artwork for display and Tamara turned in some as well. As you know, Tamara is a well-known artist in Fiji, so we had to go with what will guarantee customers in the gallery. We let Vera know we could possibly use her designs later, when we have our New Artist Competition. Vera seemed to be fine with the decision. Even though we didn’t choose any of Vera’s artwork this time, she was still very professional and created a beautiful display for her sister’s designs. I must say it is a lovely display. Vera always comes through for the gallery. We don’t know what we would do without her,” said Sandy.

Polly nodded. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw someone sliding out the front door. “Can someone please stop them from leaving?” yelled Polly.

Use your observation skills and compare the paintings. Circle the items that are incorrect in the fake painting. Who ran out the door? Why?

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Alba Gallery of Art

Brochure showing the original artwork created by the artist

Use your observation skills and compare the paintings.

Circle the items that are incorrect in the fake painting.

Extra:

Who ran out the door?

Why?



Picture on display in the art gallery

Evidence item #FF862

ANSWER KEY

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Alba Gallery of Art

Brochure showing the original artwork created by the artist

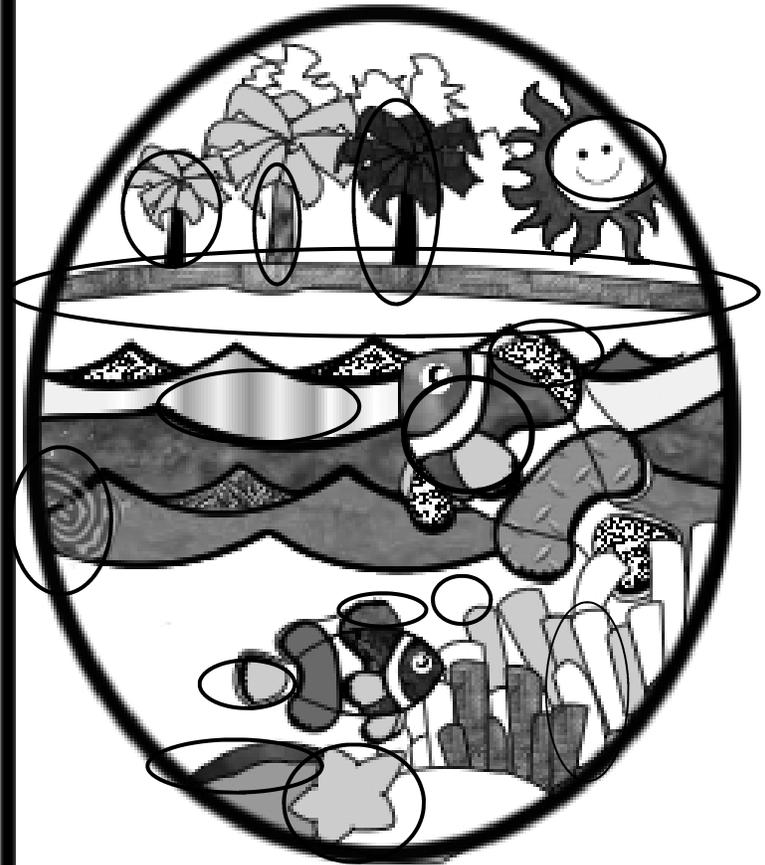
Use your observation skills and compare the paintings. Circle the items that are incorrect in the fake painting.

Extra:

Who ran out the door?

VERA

Why? (answers will vary)—*Example:* She really wanted her artwork displayed, of course. She was there earlier that morning and changed the artwork. She wanted everyone to love the painting and later, she could let them know that she created it. She wanted them to know she was just as good



Picture on display in the art gallery

Evidence item #FF862 _ANSWER