

CHICAGO

2 women charged in artwork theft at Chicago storage facility

Tribune staff report

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A quarrel over art worth more than \$500,000 led to the arrest of two women after they tried to steal the artwork from a Chicago storage facility Friday, law-enforcement authorities said.

Michele Vasarhelyi, 61, and Vera Mamalat, 31, both of Chicago, appeared in Bond Court Sunday at the Cook County Criminal Courts Building, facing felony theft charges. The two were ordered held in lieu of \$125,000 bail by Judge Israel Desierto.

Vasarhelyi, Mamalat and two unidentified suspects arranged to steal several pieces of artwork, worth about \$586,000, from a storage facility in the 1000 block of North Halsted Street, authorities said. One of the women had been in a dispute over ownership of the artwork, authorities said.