

Arts, Briefly

Artist's Daughter-in-Law Accused of Theft

Compiled by STEVEN McELROY

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The daughter-in-law of the Op Art pioneer Victor Vasarely has surrendered her French passport after being accused of stealing artwork from a storage site in Chicago that was being rented by a dealer, Agence France-Presse reported. The artist's daughter-in-law, Michèle Taburno-Vasarely, said the paintings that she was trying to take belonged to her and that she feared that the gallery owner, Thomas Monahan, was planning to steal them from her. Mr. Monahan said he had indeed been storing thousands of pieces for Ms. Taburno-Vasarely but became concerned about how she had obtained them when he heard of an inquiry now under way in France. He said his lawyer had advised him to hold on to the works until rightful ownership could be established. Prosecutors asked a county judge to postpone Ms. Taburno-Vasarely's case until July 16 and said they intended to seek a grand jury indictment on felony theft charges. She was arrested on June 22 when the authorities discovered her trying to move the bubble-wrapped paintings from Mr. Monahan's unit into an adjacent one. She was released on a \$125,000 bond two days later. Mr. Vasarely died in 1997.