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## 'Spiderman' on loose

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Police are hunting a tattooed "spiderman" who has broken into 16 high-rise apartments since July by scaling the buildings and entering units through balcony doors.

The athletic man, who has the word "DEATHROW" inked into his left forearm, has stolen "laptops, jewellery including gold watches, and other portable items" from apartments around Sydney's CBD, south-western suburbs and Surfers Paradise, said detective senior sergeant Darren Cloake from Flemington local area command.

"He's a 'spiderman' - he climbs a building outside the balcony area and then enters [the apartment] via the balcony door," Sergeant Cloake said.

"Generally, he operates in hours of darkness."

The burglar's audacious methods have stunned police.

"We're calling him the tiger in the jungle," Sergeant Cloake said.

"He's even been disturbed [while in the middle of a robbery] on the sixth floor, and he jumps off the balcony and swings down ... he's prolific."

The 27-year-old man has been linked - because of the distinct mode of operation - to 16 separate raids on apartments around Sydney CBD, Strathfield, Meadowbank, Lakemba and Surfers Paradise, he said.

He was named as a suspect after police saw security footage at one apartment in which the offender was visible, Sergeant Cloake said.

He has been previously jailed - in 2006 - for a break and enter offence, Sergeant Cloake said.

His whereabouts are not known and police are appealing to the public for information.

"[Our most recent knowledge of his whereabouts] is in Sydney on August 14 when he pawned a watch belonging to a victim of his from the Meadowbank area," Sergeant Cloake said.

He is described as being of Asian appearance, thin build and about 175 centimetres tall.

Apart from the "DEATHROW" tattoo, he has Asian characters on his right forearm, police said.

Both tattoos are written in black ink.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts of the man is urged to phone Flemington Police on 9646 8699 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.