

PRESS RELEASE

Magdeburg, 9/10/2018

Gurlitt Provenance Research project identifies four works of Nazi-confiscated art

On display starting September 14 at the exhibit entitled “Bestandsaufnahme Gurlitt” (Gurlitt: Status Report) at the Gropius Bau in Berlin

Four drawings by the artists Charles Dominique Joseph Eisen, Augustin de Saint-Aubin and Anne Vallayer-Coster have been identified as Nazi-confiscated art by the Gurlitt Provenance Research project. Their origins can be traced back to the Jewish family Deutsch de la Meurthe in Paris, in whose private home they were hanging. The house was confiscated during the National Socialist occupation. After the end of the war, the family filed a loss report that included the drawings. In the context of the “Kunstfund Gurlitt” (Gurlitt Art Trove), it became known that these four works, along with 14 other pieces, were in possession of Benita Renate Gurlitt (1935–2012). As the works were part of Hildebrand Gurlitt’s art collection and because of their significance for coming to terms with the National Socialist art theft, they were included in the research of the Gurlitt Provenance Research project and published in the Lost Art Database of the German Lost Art Foundation in July 2017. The current owner has acknowledged the Washington Principles and decided in favor of the restitution of Nazi-confiscated art. The works are on display as part of the “Bestandsaufnahme Gurlitt” exhibit at the Gropius Bau in Berlin from September 14, 2018 until January 7, 2019. The descendants of the Deutsch de la Meurthe family have been contacted, and it is their wish that the works be presented.

State Minister of Culture Prof. Monika Grütters explains, “The identification of four more works as Nazi-confiscated art is convincing proof of how important comprehensive, detailed and often protracted provenance research is. I am also very grateful to the owner of the pieces for adhering to the Washington Principles as a private person and agreeing to the restitution of Nazi-confiscated art. It is an important step toward coming to terms with the NS art theft that private persons also accept their responsibility and have their collections examined.”

Grütters continues, “It is good that these works can now be shown in the ‘Bestandsaufnahme Gurlitt’ exhibit in the Gropius Bau in Berlin starting September 14. It is an important step to show due respect for the fate of the Jewish family Deutsch de la Meurthe, from whom the works were taken.”

The backs of two of the drawings by the artist Charles Eisen bear lot numbers of an auction (Vente Léon Decloux, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, February 14–15, 1898, Lot 57 and 58), where Henri Deutsch de la Meurthe acquired them. The drawings by Aubin and Vallayer-Coster were purchased one year later at another auction (Vente Mühlbacher, Galerie Georges Petit, Paris, May 15, 1899, Lot 288 and 299). The French industrialist Henry Deutsch de la Meurthe (1846–1919) is known historically as a supporter of early aviation. The family’s house on Place des États-Unis in Paris was used by the National Socialist “Dienststelle Westen” (Western Department) as a depot for works of art that had been amassed in confiscations of the so-called “Möbel-Aktion”, a large looting operation.

For detailed information about the works and their histories, please refer to the annex and the links to the Lost Art Database of the German Lost Art Foundation.

The drawings are part of the “Bestandsaufnahme Gurlitt. Ein Kunsthändler im Nationalsozialismus” (Gurlitt: Status Report. An Art Dealer in Nazi Germany) exhibit, presented by the Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, and the Kunstmuseum Bern at the Gropius Bau in Berlin from September 14, 2018 until January 7, 2019.

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Note for visual media:

If you are interested in an on-site appointment at the exhibit, please contact directly:

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Annex:

Overview of the works in Lost Art:

http://www.lostart.de/Webs/DE/Datenbank/Suche/SucheSimpelErgebnis.html?cms_param=SUCHE_ID%3D26483680

Work 1

[O le bon tems que *la* moisson! On est ensemble sans façon \(Template for an illustration engraving for the comedy "Les Moissonneurs" by Charles Simon F\[...\]\)](#)

Artist/creator: Eisen, Charles Dominique Joseph

Type of work: Drawing

Material/technique: Ink pen: Paper/drawn, washed

Height: 26.80 cm Width: 20.20 cm

Description: [...]out: "O le bon tems que *la* moisson! On est ensemble[...]

Collection: Konvolut Süddeutschland

Provenance: [...]bruar 1898, Lot 57 Henri *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]ch Inherited by Marguerite *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]

Lost Art ID: 568263

Work 2

[Pourquoy *la* chagriner? Elle est jolie et sage \[...\] \(Template for an illustration engraving for the comedy "Les Moissonneurs" by Charles Sim\[...\]\)](#)

Artist/creator: Eisen, Charles Dominique Joseph

Type of work: Drawing

Material/technique: Ink pen: Paper/drawn, washed

Height: 26.90 cm Width: 20.10 cm

Description: [...] Passepartout: "Pourquoy *la* chagriner? Elle est joli[...]

Collection: Konvolut Süddeutschland

Provenance: [...]bruar 1898, Lot 58 Henri *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]ch Inherited by Marguerite *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]

Lost Art ID: 568264

Work 3

[Portrait de femme en profil/Portrait of a lady in profile](#)

Artist/creator: Saint-Aubin, Augustin

Type of work: Drawing

Material/technique: Pencil and sanguine: Paper/drawn

Diameter: 10.00 cm

Collection: Konvolut Süddeutschland

Provenance: [...] May 1899, Lot 288 Henri *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]ch Inherited by Marguerite *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]

Lost Art ID: 568268

Work 4

[Self portrait](#)

Artist/creator: Vallayer-Coster, Anne

Type of work: Drawing

Material/technique: Charcoal, pencil, sanguine, colored pencil: Paper/drawn

Diameter: 32.30 cm

Collection: Konvolut Süddeutschland

Provenance: [...] May 1899, Lot 288 Henri *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]ch Inherited by Marguerite *Deutsch de la Meurthe*, Paris and Angervilliers[...]

Lost Art ID: 568269