



Jean-Louis Forain

Femme en robe du soir et une chaise (Jeune femme en blanc)

(Woman in evening dress, standing by a long-legged chair [Young woman in white])

Watercolour on cardboard, 210 x 205 mm

on recto, upper right, signed in pencil: "forain"

on verso, inscribed in pencil, upper left: "B", "8", [illegible]; upper right: "Forain"; lower right: "29 x 31" [rest illegible]

Provenance:

Armand Dorville, Paris

Sale: *Vente aux enchères du cabinet d'un amateur parisien*. Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24–27 June 1942, no. 182, pl. XLIII

Monsieur Béatrice, Hôtel Royal, Nice, acquired at the above sale

(...)

By latest 2012: Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical references:

Vente aux enchères du cabinet d'un amateur parisien, Auct. cat., Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24–27 June 1942. [lot 182, as *Jeune femme en blanc*, planche XLIII]

Primary sources:

Archives départementales des Alpes-Maritimes :

Procès-verbal de la vente volontaire no. 66 sous l'autorité de Me Terris, commissaire-priseur dans le Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24 June 1942

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–?: 17 November 1943 (?) [no. 1822a VII]
 23 December 1943 (?) [no. 1822a VII]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 12.1_F12155 [n.d.]

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

M1944, Roberts Commission, Looting: France: Personnel, Report of the Commission de Récupération, 27 August 1945

www.fold3.com/image/273365527 and subsequent pages (29 November 2015)

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris:

Office des Biens et Intérêts Privés (OBIP), CRA 62, 619

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/137

Further sources consulted:

Kunstler, Charles. *Forain*. Paris: Rieder, 1931.

Exhibit Twenty-One: Forain. Exh. cat., Sterling and Francine Clark Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, March 1963.

Browse, Lillian. *Forain: The Painter 1852–1931*. London: Paul Elek, 1978.

Fondation de l'Hermitage, ed. *Jean-Louis Forain: Les années impressionnistes et post-impressionnistes*. Lausanne: self-publ., 1995.

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt

Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume

Database "Central Collecting Point München"

Database "Kunstsammlung Hermann Göring"

Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Witt Library

Note:

The first known owner of this work was Maître Armand Dorville (1875–1941), an advocate at the Paris Court of Appeal, who served as senator of Tarn-et-Garonne and was also a writer and an amateur artist. Dorville descended from a prominent Jewish family; his father Léon Dorville (1850–1927) was the long-serving president of the Jewish charity Société la Bienfaisance Israélite.

Armand Dorville was the owner of an important collection of modern French works, which were kept at his residence in Paris, at 16, rue Séguier.

After the Nazi invasion of Paris, Dorville fled to the south of France, taking some of his artworks with him. He died in 1941 in Cubjac in the Dordogne. Armand Dorville's collection was sold at a posthumous sale in mid-1942 at the Hall du Savoy in Nice, which was then still part of the demilitarized zone. According to the results of said sale, this Forain watercolour was acquired by one Monsieur Béatrice, then residing at the Hôtel Royal, for the sum of 7,200 French francs.

All property that Dorville had been forced to surrender in Paris was seized by the Nazis in December 1943.

Dorville's sister, Valentine Lion (c. 1881–1944), her twin daughters Denise Falk and Monique Tabet (1920–1944), and her infant granddaughter Marie France Tabet (1940–1944) were arrested in Rhône-Alpes region in South-Eastern France in mid-March 1944 and deported first to Drancy, and to Auschwitz-Birkenau thereafter. All were murdered.

One drawing from the 1942 sale (*Lionne accroupie* by Eugène Delacroix, now at the Musée de Louvre) is listed in the inventory of the Musées Nationaux Récupération (MNR no. REC 148). The Louvre also owns two paintings identified as a 1942 "bequest of Armand Dorville" (inv nos. RF 1943-6 and RF 1943-7); three paintings by Jean Beraud identified as a bequest of 1944 now at the Musée Carnavalet (inv. Nos. CARP 1731, 1733, 1737).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1_F12155, is a reproduction of this work.

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