



Jean-Louis Forain

Portrait de femme (Portrait of a woman with hat, in profile), 1881

Oil on panel, 35 x 26.3 cm

on recto, lower left, signed "j.l. forain 1881"

on verso, upper right, inscribed in red: "D^f. G."; printed label: "Vente du 24 au 28 Juin 1942/ Hall du Savoy, Nice (A.-M.) / Cabinet d'un Amateur Parisien / N^o 176 [handwritten] du Catalogue / Dirigée par M^e J.-J. Terris, Commissaire-Preneur/ 3 Rue Provana, à Nice (A.-M.)/ 22 [handwritten] / avec le concours de M^e Bussilet, Commissaire-Preneur à LYON/ assistés de M.E.MARTINI, expert d'Art Ancien et Moderne / Villa Bellevue, SAINT-LAURENT-DU-VAR (A.-M.)"; on same label, at left: "REPRODUIT AU CATALOGUE" and two red stamps; below, inscribed in white chalk: "35 x 26"

on frame, at right, inscribed in white chalk: "2409" [?]; lower centre, a fragment of a handwritten label: "22"; lower left, fragment of a newspaper clipping with the headline: "Dernières journées de la vente Dorville / 2 MILLIONS 200.000 FRANCS / pour 95 dessins et aquarelles / Constantin Guys"; upper left, inscribed in white chalk: "DG/ 9"; in blue: "...oir Elia [remainder illegible] in white chalk: DG/9[?]; fragments of paper at upper left

Provenance:

Armand Dorville, Paris

Sale: *Vente aux enchères du cabinet d'un amateur parisien*. Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24–27 June 1942, no. 176, pl. XLVII

Léopold Dreyfus, Nice, acquired at the above sale

(...)

By latest 28 April 1944: with Raphaël Gerard, Paris (per Cornelius Gurlitt Papers)

By latest September 1953: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf (per Cornelius Gurlitt Papers)

By descent to 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 176, as *Portrait de jeune femme présentée de profil*, pl. XLVII]

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. 1882a VII]
 23 December 1943 [no. 1882a VII]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 12.1_F12156 [n.d.]

List Raphaël Gerard, reference no. in process, [28 April 1944], [item no. 22]

List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, reference no. in process, [c. September 1953], [item no. 22]

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 (Part 2)/087

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

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

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 oil was acquired for the sum of 19,000 francs by Léopold Dreyfus, then residing in Nice, 26 rue Pastorelli. (The newspaper clipping on verso of the frame quotes a hammer price of 20,000 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).

This work was one of over 70 works with the art dealer Raphaël Gérard in Paris in 1944. It is unclear whether at the time Gérard and/or Gurlitt owned or co-owned these works, whether they had been placed on commission, or indeed simply deposited with Gérard. It is conspicuous that an inventory of works with Gérard was drawn up in the very late stages of the war; one possible hypothesis is that Gurlitt placed for safekeeping with Gérard works that he had acquired in occupied Paris, with the intention of moving these objects at a later date. This particular work strongly supports this hypothesis.

In 1953, some of these works were shipped to Gurlitt in Dusseldorf, while others remained with Gérard until 1957 (at Gurlitt's cost). The inscription "22" on verso refers to two inventories of artworks with Gérard, one dated 28 April 1944, the other dating from about September 1953. This work is respectively referred to herein as "FORAIN: Portrait de femme" (1944) and "Forain, Frauenporträt, Oel" (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1_F12156 is a reproduction of this work.

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