



Paul Gauguin

Portrait study of a Tahitian woman

Pencil on cardboard, 218 x 244 mm

on recto, lower left, signed in pencil: "Paul"

on verso, upper left, pencil study of a foot; lower centre, inscribed in pencil: "Gaigin Gauguin"; remains of blue cardboard at corners

Provenance:

(...)

Acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt in France, c. 1942

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Primary sources:

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt:

Sale ledger 1937–41 28 May 1942

20 June 1942 [no. 139]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt:

26 September 1947 [vol. 10, fol. 445; vol. 12, fol. 334]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, 12.1_F12201 [12 November 1943]

Correspondence, ref. no. in process [21 August 1947, 4 October 1947, 2 December 1947]

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

Ardelia Hall Collection, Munich Collecting Point, 1945–1951. Statement Hildebrand Gurlitt, 26 September 1947

www.fold3.com/image/270055508/

Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem:

International Tracing Service

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/145

Further sources consulted:

Rewald, John. Gauguin: Drawings. New York: Yoseloff, 1958.

Wildenstein, Georges. Gauguin: Catalogue critique. Paris: Édition Les Beaux Arts, 1964.

Hollmann, Eckhard. Bilder aus der Südsee. Munich: Prestel, 1996.

Wildenstein, Daniel. Gauguin: Premier itinéraire d'un sauvage: Catalogue de l'œuvre peint, 2 vols.

Milan: Skira, 2001.

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

Database "Central Collecting Point München"

Database "Entartete Kunst"

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 female head found in the Schwabing Art Trove resembles many drawings Gauguin produced during his stay in Tahiti between 1891 and 1893, which comprise a large number of studies of women and children. All have a strong personal character and are executed on small pieces of paper, a visual diary to be used by the artist for his paintings.

According to the extant sale ledgers, this was one of about forty works that Gurlitt claimed to have acquired from the art dealer Jean Lenthal in Paris on 20 June 1942. Research by the Taskforce revealed these to be false entries. Post-war correspondence between Gurlitt and Lenthal, which was found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg residence, proved that Gurlitt coerced Lenthal into issuing fake receipts for works that Lenthal never owned or sold. Gurlitt provided Lenthal with a statement to this effect in 1947.

Jean Lenthal (recte Hans Loewenthal, 1914 Vienna–1983 Paris) was an art dealer in Paris. On account of his Jewish descent, Lenthal was deported in 1943, first to Drancy and thereafter to Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen and Mauthausen concentration camps. After the liberation in 1945, Lenthal returned to live in Paris where he resumed his art dealership.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1_F12201 is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, a typewritten statement of authenticity by the art expert André Schoeller of Paris, 13, Rue de Téhéran, dated 12 November 1943.

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