



Unknown (formerly attributed to Marc Chagall)

Scène allégorique avec un couple s'embrassant (Allegorical scene with embracing lovers),
after 1927

Gouache on paper, laid down on cardboard, 63.3 x 48 cm
on recto, lower right, signed: "Chagall Marc"

Provenance:

(...)

By latest 1945: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Aschbach

1945–1950 Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden, no. WIE 2004/4

From 25 January 1951: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Primary sources:

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 7.1_F713 [n.d.]

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

M1947, Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, Property Card no. WIE 2004/4

www.fold3.com/image/231953156/ (3 December 2015)

Further sources consulted:

Däubler, Theodor. *Chagall*. Rome: Valori Plastici, 1922.
Halle, Fannina W. "Marc Chagall," pp. 507–516. In: *Das Kunstblatt*, vol. VI (1922).
Marc Chagall. Exh. cat., *Der Sturm*, 26th exhibition, June 1914.
Kunstausstellung. Exh. cat., Kunstmuseum, Riga, 21 January–22 February 1942.
Meyer, Franz. *Marc Chagall: Leben und Werk*. Cologne: DuMont Schauberg, 1961.
Bruhns, Maike. *Kunst in der Krise*. 2 vols. Hamburg: Dölling und Gallitz, 2001.

Archiv des Auswärtigen Amts, Berlin:
Botschaft Paris, nos. 1321, 1379, 2490

Brandenburg Landeshauptarchiv, Potsdam

Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen, Berlin
nos. 41 WGA 2413/57–2419/57; 41 WGA 3624/57; 41 WGA 3622/57

Landesarchiv Berlin

Schleswig-Holsteinisches Landesarchiv:
Sozialministerium, Entschädigungsakten, Dept. 761, nos. 8175, 16959

Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, Berne:
Entrechtungsschäden, no. E2001-08 1978-107#139

Stadtarchiv Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf:
Depository 4-159, no. 4-159-2

Zentralarchiv Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt
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 "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:

In the course of interrogations by U.S. army personnel in 1945, Gurlitt claimed this work to be the former property of his late sister, the artist Cornelia Gurlitt (1890 Dresden–1919 Berlin). The Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, however, presumed its origin in France and refused its release.

In December 1950, Gurlitt submitted a statement in respect to two works—this gouache and a Picasso work on paper—that he had received as a gift in 1943 from the artist Karl Ballmer (with whom he was closely associated). To support that claim, Ballmer furnished Gurlitt with an affidavit to the same effect. Both works were subsequently released to Gurlitt in late January 1951.

In view of the fact that Gurlitt offered conflicting explanations to the work's provenance, both the work's origin with his sister as well as its origin as a gift of Karl Ballmer appear doubtful.

Despite diligent efforts, the Taskforce was not able to establish the ownership of this work prior to 1945, when the work was first documented in the possession of Hildebrand Gurlitt.

In 2015, this work was examined by the Comité Chagall, the definitive authority on the artist's work, and was found to be a counterfeit work.

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