



**Willem van de Velde (the Younger)**

**Seascape with sailing ships**

Oil on canvas, 102 x 146 cm (105 x 148.5 cm)

on verso, canvas, upper left, inscribed in white chalk: "x"

on verso, stretcher, upper right, remnants of printed label: "[...]91 191"; vertical stretcher bar, at top, small handwritten label, "B 25 [?]" ; horizontal stretcher bar, left, inscribed in black: "58"

**Provenance:**

(...)

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

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

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

**Primary sources:**

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41:        3 July 1943 [no. 171]  
   15 September 1943 [no. 178]

Sales ledger 1937–?:        8 July 1943 [no. 1791]  
   15 September 1943 [no. 1791]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:

10 September 1946 [vol. 12, fol. 354]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

List Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, 28 April 1944, [item no. 58]

List of artworks with Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, [c. September 1953], [item no. 58]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/093

**Further sources consulted:**

*Ludolf Bakhuizen (1631–1708): Schryfmeester – Teyckenaer – Schilder.* Exh. cat., Rijksmuseum Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum, 1 July–26 August 1985.

Robinson, M. S. *The Paintings of the Willem van de Velde: a Catalogue of the Paintings of the Elder and the Younger Willem van de Velde.* 2 vols. Greenwich: National Maritime Museum, 1990.

Beer, Gerlinde de. *Ludolf Backhuysen (1630–1708): Sein Leben und Werk.* Zwolle: Waanders, 2002.

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:**

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.

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 “58” 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 “VAN de VELDE: Grande marine avec voiliers” (1944) and “v. d. Velde – Große Marine – Oel –” (1953).

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