



Gustave Courbet

Les mouettes (Seascape with seagulls)

Oil on wood, 13.2 x 36.5 cm (24 x 50 cm)
on verso, centre right, black stamp: "Cou"

Provenance:

(...)

(Probably acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt in France in the 1940s)

By latest 2012: Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Primary sources:

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–?:
1936 [no. 662]
21 June 1938 [no. 662]
27 January 1940 [no. 1298]
24 February 1940 [no. 1298]
22 May 1942 [no. 1571]
28 September 1942 [no. 1571]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

n.d. [vol. 6, fol. 306]

December 1947 and January 1948 [vol. 8, fol. 306ff.]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 12.1_F1275 [22 May 1942]

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatique, Paris:

Achats allemands en France, nos. 209SUP/824, 209SUP/389 [21 May 1942]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/088

Further sources consulted:

Riat, Georges. *Gustave Courbet: Peintre*. Paris: Henri Floury, 1906.

Laran, Jean, and Philippe Gaston-Dreyfus. *Courbet: 48 Planches hors-texte accompagnées de 48 notices*. Paris: La Renaissance du livre, J. Gillequin & Cie, 1911.

Duret, Théodore. *Courbet*. Paris: Bernheim-Jeune, 1918.

Meier-Graefe, Julius. *Gustave Courbet*. Munich: Piper, 1921.

Exposition Gustave Courbet. Exh. cat., Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris, May–June 1929.

Gustave Courbet. Exh. cat., Galerie Wertheim, Berlin, 28 September–26 October 1930.

Courthion, Pierre: *Courbet*. Paris: Librairie Floury, 1931.

Gustave Courbet. Exh. cat., Kunsthaus Zürich, 15 December 1935–31 March 1936.

Fernier, Robert. *La vie et l'œuvre de Gustave Courbet: catalogue raisonné*. Vol. 1, 1819–1865, peintures. Lausanne: Bibliothèque des Arts, 1978.

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 personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1_F1275 is a reproduction of this work; on verso, inscribed: “0.35 x 0.12 Courbet ‘Les Mouettes’ Un côté de la boîte de peinture de l’artiste” and “8441”, with signature and stamp of the art dealer Raphaël Gerard of Paris, 4, Avenue de Messine, dated 22 May 1942. This document shows that the work was on the market in the 1940s in occupied France; there is a high probability that Gurlitt acquired the work during that period.

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