



Eugène Delacroix

Lion qui se lèche la patte (Lion licking his paw), 1859

Ink and watercolour on paper, 320 x 453 mm (430 x 566 mm)

on recto, printed inscription at lower centre: "Eug. DELACROIX", inscribed in ink lower left: "27 août, Strg [Strasbourg] 59.", upper left: "[illegible]"

on verso, inscribed in white chalk upper right: "12", in pencil on backing board centre left: "12"

Provenance:

By 1885: Léon Riesener (per Robaut)

(...)

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

Bibliographical references:

Robaut, Alfred. *L'œuvre complet de Eugène Delacroix: peintures, dessins, gravures, lithographies, 1813–1863*. Paris: Charavay Frères, 1885. [no. 1402, ill.]

Primary sources:

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 14 December 1938 [no. 65]

Imports & exports ledger: September 1941 [fol. J. 49]

17 June 1943 [fol. J. 72]

18 June 1943 [fol. J. 72]

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 7.1_F708 [24 March 1944]

List Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, [28 April 1944], [item no. 12]

List of artworks with Raphaël Gérard, reference no. in process, [c. September 1953], [item no. 12]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:

3 November 1947 [vol. 10, fol. 316]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/132

Further sources consulted:

Exposition des œuvres d'Eugène Delacroix. Exh. cat., Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris, 1864.

Eugène Delacroix. Exh. cat., Salon Paul Cassirer, Berlin, 4 November–4 December 1907.

Von Delacroix bis Picasso: hundert Gemälde, Aquarelle und Zeichnungen französischer Meister des XIX. Jahrhunderts. Exh. cat., Kunsthandlung Hugo Perls, Berlin, February–March 1925.

Handzeichnungen moderner Meister (= Auktion XLVIII). Auct. cat., Paul Graupe, Berlin, 11–12 September 1925.

Escholier, Raymond. *Delacroix: Peintre, graveur, écrivain.* 3 vols. Paris: Henri Floury, 1926–1929.

Exposition E. Delacroix. Exh. cat., Musée du Louvre, Paris, June–July 1930.

Roger-Marx, Claude. *Dessins et peintures des Maîtres du XIXe siècle à nos jours: Choix de cinquante dessins de Eugène Delacroix.* Paris: Braun, 1933.

Catalogue des tableaux, aquarelles et dessins par Eugène Delacroix composant la collection M. Georges Aubry. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 11 March 1933.

Sérullaz, Maurice. *Dessins d'Eugène Delacroix: 1798–1863.* 2 vols. Paris: Réunion des musées nationaux, 1984.

Delteil, Loys. *Delacroix: The Graphic Work: A Catalogue Raisonné.* 1st ed., Paris: self-publ., 1908; transl. and rev. by Susan Strauber, San Francisco: Alan Wofsy, 1997.

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 is the painter Léon Riesener (1808 Paris–1878 Paris), who was Eugène Delacroix' first cousin. Further research is necessary to establish whether this work may have been included in the sale of Riesener's estate (which was held at Hôtel Drouot in Paris, 10–11 April 1879) or whether it was in fact retained by the family, possibly passing by descent to Riesener's daughter Louise Léouzon Le Duc (1860–1944).

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 "12" 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 "DELACROIX: Dessin à la plume, (lion)" (1944) and "Delacroix: Federzeichnung Löwe" (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 7.1_F708, is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, a statement of authenticity by art expert André Schoeller of Paris, 13, Rue de Téhéran, dated 24 March 1944.

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