



**Georges Michel (?)**

**Ciel d'orage (Stormy sky)**

Oil on board, 47.3 x 63 cm

on verso, frame, upper centre, inscribed in red: "1934/2"; upper right, in pencil: "Fot."; in blue: "R233"; at right, inscribed in blue: "214" [in circle]

**Provenance:**

By 1912: Ernest May, Paris (per exh. cat.)

By 1927: with Galerie Charpentier, Paris (per exh. cat.)

(...)

By latest 1945: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Aschbach

1945–1950 Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden, no. WIE 1934/2

From 15 December 1950: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

**Exhibition:**

*L'exposition centennale de l'art français*, Institut Français, St. Petersburg, 15–28 January 1912 [as collection Ernest May]

*Rétrospective Georges Michel 1763–1843*, Galerie Charpentier, Paris, 29 March–15 April 1927. [cat. no. 80, as *Ciel d'Orage*]

**Primary sources:**

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41:      17 November 1942 [no. 140]  
                                     15 February 1943 [no. 170]  
                                     3 February 1943 [no. 171]  
                                     5 April 1943 [no. 170]  
                                     22 September 1941 [no. 114]  
                                     25 February 1942 [no. 151]

Sales ledger 1937–?: 1941 [no. 1489]  
25 February 1942 [no. 1489]  
25 November 1942 [no. 1666–1672]  
1942 [no. 1666–1672]  
5 April 1943 [no. 1666–1672]  
3 February 1943 [no. 1758–1761]  
15 February 1943 [no. 1758–1761]  
22 September 1941 [no. 1489]

Imports and exports ledger: 22 September 1941 [no. 1489]  
25 February 1942 [no. 1489]

Current (checking) account: 25 February 1942 [fol. W. 34]  
17 March 1942[?] [fol. J. 54]

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

M1947, Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, Property Card no. WIE 1934/2  
[www.fold3.com/image/231951596/](http://www.fold3.com/image/231951596/) (6 September 2015)

Cornelius Gurlitt Papers, Salzburg:

Photographs, no. 21.1\_F2111 [n.d.]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV Part 2/105

#### Further sources consulted:

*Cataloue de tableaux anciens et dessins (...) composant l'importante collection de M. E. May.* Galerie Georges Petit, Paris, 4 June 1890.

*Exposition rétrospective d'œuvres de Georges Michel.* Exh. cat., Galerie Guy Stein, Paris, 5 December 1938–7 January 1939.

Bouret, Jean. *L'École de Barbizon et le paysage français au XIXe siècle.* Paris: La Bibliothèque des Arts, 1972.

Müllerschön, Bernd, and Thomas Maier. *Die Maler der Schule von Barbizon: Wegbereiter des Impressionismus.* Stuttgart: Ed. Thombe, 2002, p. 289-294.

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 "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 originated in the collection of Ernest May (1845 Strasbourg–1925 Paris), a banker and prominent art collector. An early sale of works from his collection was sold through Galerie Georges Petit on 4 June 1890. Following May's death, twelve works were bequeathed to the Musée de Louvre.

The Property Card of the Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden records the presence of two exhibition labels on verso: the 1927 retrospective in Paris and the 1912 exhibition of French art in St. Petersburg, with the latter inscribed as "Collection May." These labels have not been preserved, or are possibly concealed by the laying down of canvas on verso.

The extant sale ledgers of Hildebrand Gurlitt list many Georges Michel works. Owing to the lack of specific details given, it has not to date been possible to establish definitively when and where this work was acquired.

The possible provenance that was tentatively assigned to the artwork in the course of its seizure, and later published on [Lostart.de](http://Lostart.de), requires further research.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 21.1\_F2111 is an interior shot of the Gurlitt family residence in Dusseldorf, with this painting mounted on the wall.

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The research of the Taskforce Schwabing Art Trove focused exclusively on the provenance of the artwork described in this report. This report does not purport to make pronouncements on any legal claims and legal positions. The head of the Taskforce Schwabing Art Trove is responsible for the contents and the publication of this report.

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