



Georges Seurat

La Canne et le Cochonnet (Walking Stick and Jack Ball), 1883

Unsigned

Pencil and coloured pencil on paper, 150 x 238 mm (163 x 245 mm)

on verso, cardboard mount: inscribed in pencil, upper left: [illegible]; "Collection Fénéon Exposition Bernheim jeune / 1926 / Exposition Bernheim jeune 1909 / ~~1881~~ No 85"; upper right: "Seurat 83"

Provenance:

Félix Fénéon, Paris (per inscription and de Hauke)

(...)

By latest 2012: Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Exhibitions:

Rétrospective Georges Seurat, Exh. cat., Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, Paris, 14 December 1908–9 January 1909. [no. 85]

Les dessins de Seurat, Exh. cat., Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, Paris, 29 November–24 December 1926. [no. 6]

Les Néo-Impressionnistes, Exh. cat., Galerie de France, Paris, 12 December 1942–15 January 1943. [no. 10]

Bibliographical references:

Hauke, C.M. de. *Seurat et son œuvre*. Vol. 2. Paris: Gründ, 1961. [no. 379, ill.]

Herbert, Robert L. *Seurat's Drawings*. London: Studio Vista, 1965. [no. 33, ill.]

Chastel, André. *L'opera complete*. Milano: Rizzoli, 1972.

Primary sources:

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 10 June 1942 [no. 159]
13 October 1942 [no. 159]

Sales ledger 1937–?: 10 June 1942 [no. 1563]
13 October 1942 [no. 1563]

Correspondence Hildebrand Gurlitt – possible reference:

3 January 1948 [vol. 6, fol. 218]

Witt Library, London:

Folder Georges Seurat

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/108

Further sources consulted:

Collection Félix Fénéon [...]. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 4 December 1941.

Georges Seurat: Zeichnungen. Exh. cat., Kunsthalle Bielefeld, 30 October–25 December 1983; Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, 15 January–11 March 1984.

Herbert, Robert L. *Seurat: Drawings and Paintings*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.

Georges Seurat: The Drawings. Exh. cat., Museum of Modern Art, New York, 28 January 2007–7 January 2008.

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 drawing is part of a larger series of drawings of soldiers, Seurat’s so-called *Brest Notebooks*. The Schwabing Art Trove also contains a heliographic reproduction of this sheet (LostArt-ID: 478199).

Félix Fénéon (1861–1944) was a famous French art critic and political activist in Paris. He coined the term “Neoimpressionism” to denote the group of artists led by Georges Seurat, and championed their works. From 1907 until 1925, Fénéon served as artistic director at the Galerie Bernheim-Jeune.

A first sale of the Fénéon collection took place at Hôtel Drouot on 4 December 1941. After his death in 1944, his estate was sold at Hôtel Drouot at three consecutive sales in 1947.

This drawing was shown at the Galerie de France in late 1942. The exhibition catalogue includes a special mention of Félix Fénéon, who is acknowledged “despite his distance from Paris” as the “most erudite of guides,” having contributed to the show his knowledge and papers on Seurat. Further research is necessary.

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