François Boucher

Homme nu (Male nude)

Charcoal and pastel on laid paper, 382 x 255 mm
on verso, centre right, inscribed in red: “32”; inscribed in pencil, centre right: “Boucher”; lower left: “194_97”

Provenance:

(...)  
Roger Delapalme, Paris (per Gurlitt Papers)  
Acquired after February 1941: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Hamburg  
Thence by descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg  
From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

BArch, N 1826/37, fol. 37. Cornelius Gurlitt packing list, 11 November 1989

Delapalme Files: BArch, N 1826/49. Appraisal François Max-Kann, 25 February 1941  
Ibid. Supplement List François Max-Kann (“Betr. Dr. Gurlitt”), n.d.

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0249 [=3.1_F301], [10 June 1942]  
Register of Salzburg works, 2014, no. Wien 194_97
Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41:
- 23 July 1942 [no. 152]
- 23 July 1942 [no. 139]
- 26 November 1942 [no. 140]
- 6 January 1943 [no. 172]

Sales ledger 1937–?:
- 23 July 1942 [no. 1620]
- 26 November 1942 [no. 1709]
- 1942 [no. 1709]
- 6 January 1942 [no. 1709]

Further sources consulted:


Archives de Paris

Archives Nationales, Paris

Auswärtiges Amt, Berlin, Politisches Archiv

Bundesarchiv, Berlin; Freiburg; Koblenz

Centre Pompidou, Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Paris

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

Institut national de l’histoire d’art, Paris (French sale catalogues)

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke (“Reichsliste von 1938”)

Witt Library, London

Zentralarchiv für deutsche und internationale Kunstmarktforschung, Cologne

Note:

Roger Delapalme (1892 Paris–1969 Paris) was the son of the public notary Pierre-Marie Delapalme. Roger Delapalme was professionally employed in the management of the Compagnie des Courtiers Jurés d’assurances, an insurance company, where he served first as Treasurer and then as Deputy
Director. His wife Yvonne was the daughter of Henry Chabert, the director of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. The couple lived in Paris at 17 rue du Général-Foy, since 1929/30 at 65 rue La Boëtie.

The extant papers of Cornelius Gurlitt contain an inventory of art works said to belong to Roger Delapalme of Paris, 65, rue La Boëtie, as appraised by the art expert François Max-Kann in early 1941. This appraisal itemizes 40 lots (comprising a total of 58 artworks), including this Boucher drawing.

While the exact circumstances of the transaction are not yet known, it is most likely that Gurlitt acquired these works after February 1941, possibly through Max-Kann who may have acted as intermediary.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 3.1_F301 is a reproduction of this work; on verso, a statement of authenticity by Max-Kann, dated Paris, 10 June 1942.

According to an entry in his travel itinerary, Hildebrand Gurlitt visited Paris 7/8–14 June 1942; it is possible that he acquired this work during the course of that stay.

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