Paul Cézanne

Paysage de Provence (Landscape in Provence), 1883–1887

Pencil and watercolour on paper, 246 x 320 mm
on verso, lower right, inscribed in pencil: “42 x 3[...]”

Provenance:
Until at least 1936: Paul Cézanne junior, Paris (per Venturi)
(...) (Probably acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt in France in the 1940s)
Thence by descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg
From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical references:

Primary sources:
Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:
Catalogues: 14_1412 [Venturi, 1936]
Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/177, fol. 275 f. [=vol. 6, fol. 216 f.] Gitta Gurlitt to Hildebrand Gurlitt, 3 January 1948
Ibid., fol. 277 [=vol. 6, fol. 218]. List Gitta Gurlitt, 9 December 1947
Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-1584f. [=10_F10257], [1 August 1941]
Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/032
Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Correspondence:
29 May 1946 [vol. 10, fol. 21]
26 February 1947 [vol. 10, fol. 20]
2 November 1945 [vol. 10, fol. 242]
11 September 1948 [vol. 12, fol. 21 ff.]

Current (checking) account:
7 December 1938 [W 12]
18 March 1942 [W 35]

Imports and exports ledger:
10 October 1943 [fol. J. 79]

Sales ledger 1937–41:
22 September 1941 [no. 114]
14 October 1941 [no. 127]
14 October 1941 [no. 114]
18 March 1943 [no. 151]

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague:
Folder Paul Cézanne [variant]

Witt Library, London:
Folder Paul Cézanne [variant]

Further sources consulted:

Archives de la Préfecture de Police, Le Pré-Saint-Gervais near Paris:
C B 33 art. 43–45 (1939–1942)
77W38, no. 149647. André Schoeller

Archives de Paris:
Deaths index, DQ8 2785
Disposal of the Cézanne estate, nos. DQ7 331, D1U6 6111, D1U6 6113, D1U6 6115, D1U6 5876
Tax files, no. 32221-9e-72-1 (fiscal years 1940–1944)

Archives Nationales, Pierrefitte-sur-Seine:
AJ/40/1041, Archives allemandes de l'Occupation (Banque de l’Union Parisienne)

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris:
209SUP/740 (Index, Cézanne)
209SUP/822 (Index, Art dealers)
209SUP/406 (Art dealers)
209SUP/182 (objets achetés en France)

UCLA Library, Los Angeles:
Jean Renoir Papers, 1915–1927, coll. 105, boxes 1–8, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19

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
National Archives, College Park, Maryland
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke (“Reichsliste von 1938”)
www.cezannecatalogue.com

Note:
The materials found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg residence include a copy of Lionello Venturi’s 1936 catalogue raisonné; the pertinent entry (cat. no. 921) marked with a small “x”. The owner of the work at the time, per Venturi, is given as Paul Cézanne, junior.

In 1940, Cézanne deposited some works in a bank vault that the Cézanne family shared with the family of Pierre-Auguste Renoir at the Banque de l’Union Parisienne. Research shows that the Nazi
Authorities temporarily placed a security order on the contents of said vault; however, that order was subsequently lifted on account of the fact that the owners were not Jewish.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photographs nos. 10_F10257 and 10_F10257_1 are reproductions of this work; the former inscribed on verso with a statement of authenticity by the art expert André Schoeller of Paris, 13, Rue de Téhéran, dated 1 August 1941. The document indicates that the work was for sale in occupied France in the 1940s; there is a high probability that Gurlitt acquired the work during that period. Research suggests a voluntary sale.

This work is not identical to the painting titled La Vallée de l’Arc et la Montagne Sainte-Victoire (then identified as Paul Cézanne but now considered a fake) that Hildebrand Gurlitt acquired at the Viau sale in Paris in 1942 and thereafter sold to Carl Neumann.

A reference to a Cézanne watercolour titled Landschaft mit gelbem Baum (Landscape with yellow tree) can be found in the correspondence of Hildebrand Gurlitt. It was sent to a restorer in December 1947.

The original report on the provenance of this work, as submitted to the Task Force Schwabing Art Trove, was made accessible online at www.taskforce-kunstfund.de as of 14 January 2016. That report was updated by the Gurlitt Provenance Research Project on 15 August 2017.

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