Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot

Wide open landscape with rocks on the left (Civita Castellana?)

Pencil on paper, 208 x 272 mm
on recto, lower left, red stamp: “Vente Corot” [Lugt 460a]

Provenance:
Estate of the artist (per stamp)
Sale: Vente Corot, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 31 May 1875 (per stamp)
(…)
Georges Viau, Paris
Sale: Vente Viau, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 11 December 1942, lot 12
Acquired at the above sale by André Schoeller for Hildebrand Gurlitt (per Archives de Paris)
By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg
From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical references:
Catalogues des tableaux, études, esquisses, dessins et eaux-fortes par Corot (...). Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 26 May 1875 and subsequent days.
Tableaux modernes (...) œuvres importantes de Degas (...) composant la Collection de M. Georges Viau. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 11 December 1942. [lot 12, as Paysage avec arbres et rochers, Italie]
www.marquesdecollections.fr/detail.cfm/marque/6056/total/1 (11 June 2015)

Primary sources:
Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:
Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0757 [=5.1_F578], [1 February 1943]
Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 41/107

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible reference:

11 July 2019 (interim results)  www.lostart.de/EN/Fund/478152
Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/182, fol. 97 f. [=vol. 10, fol. 319 f.] Hildebrand Gurlitt to Hermann Reemtsma, 13 November 1947
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

Archives de Paris:
D149E3 17. Auctioneer Alphonse Bellier, Procès-verbal, VenteViau, 11 December 1942

Further sources consulted (selected):

Archives Nationales, Paris
Bundesarchiv, Berlin; Koblenz
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
Herkomst Gezocht
Landesarchiv Berlin (Records of the Amt für Wiedergutmachung)
Lootedart.com
Lost Art
Musée d’Orsay, Paris (Documentation de la conservation)
Musée du Louvre, Paris (Département des Peintures)
Nationaal Archief, The Hague
National Archives, College Park, Maryland
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés [possibly 120–123, 32.975]
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague
Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Archive)
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")
Witt Library, London
Zentralarchiv der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Note:
After the artist’s death, the unsigned paper works found at his studio were stamped with “Vente Corot” and sold in 1875 at the sale of his estate at Hôtel Drouot in Paris.
The first known owner of this drawing was the dentist Georges Viau (1855–1940 Paris), a well-known collector and patron of the arts who began collecting at about the turn of the century and went on to assemble one of the largest private collections of Impressionist and Pre-Impressionist art in Paris. Sales of Viau works took place in 1907, 1909, 1925 and 1930, and posthumously in 1942, 1943 and 1948.
This work was acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt, through André Schoeller, at the sale of Viau’s estate in 1942 for the sum of 39,000 francs. Afterwards the drawing was cropped.
A reference to a Corot drawing titled Weite Landschaft mit Felsen links can be found in the correspondence of Hildebrand Gurlitt. It was sent to a restorer in December 1947.
Among the personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home is a collection of about 2400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 5.1_F578, 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 1 February 1943.
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 11 July 2019.

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