Gustave Courbet

La villagoise au chevreau (The villager with kid), c. 1860

Oil on canvas, 73.3 x 60.3 cm (with frame: 104.1 x 91.7 cm)
on recto, lower left, signed in red: “G Courbet”
on verso, on frame, upper centre, inscribed in yellow chalk: “5481”; upper right, inscribed in yellow chalk: “529” and “669”; centre left, inscribed in chalk: “[...]84”; centre right, inscribed in white chalk: “2”; lower centre, round torn label; lower right, white handwritten label: “40...41...42...43...44...”
on canvas, upper right, inscribed in white chalk: “12” and round black stamp [French customs’ stamp?]

Provenance:
26 February 1873: Paul Durand-Ruel, Paris, acquired from the artist (per Gurlitt Papers & stock book Durand-Ruel)
(...)
Coll. Dussol de Cette
Sale: Vente Dussol, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 17 March 1884, lot 25
M. Bresse, acquired at the above sale (per cat. rais.)
(...)
Félix Gérard, Paris
Sale: Vente Gérard, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 25 February 1896, lot 16
Acquired at the above sale: Félix Gerard
(...)
1940s: Possibly with Galerie Mercedes Rousso, Paris (per akg-images)

(...) 

Sale: Vente Félix Gerard [fils], Galerie Park-Palace, Monte-Carlo, 11–12 April 1949, lot 12

By latest 1953: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf, probably acquired through Gerard

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Exhibition:

*French Masters of the XIX and XXth century.* Exh. cat., Marlborough Fine Arts Gallery, London, August 1950. [no. 27, as *Isaure en Bacchante*]  

Bibliographical references:

*Catalogue de tableaux modernes composant la collection de M. D [Dussol de Cette ?]*. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris 17 March 1884. [lot 25, as *Isaure en bacchante*]


*Collection Félix Gérard Catalogue des Tableaux modernes.* Auct. cat., Galerie du Park Palace, Monaco, 11–12 April 1949. [lot 12, as *Jeune femme au chevreau*, ill.]


*The Connoisseur*, London, October 1950, p. XXIV. [ill.]


Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Catalogues: ref. no. in process:

17_1718_Orlan_Courbet_1951 [1951]

17_1758_Leger_Courbet_1929 [1929]

Gerard Files: BArch, N 1826/46, fol. 1 ff. List Raphaël Gerard, 28 April 1944, item no. 68

Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], item no. 68

Miscellaneous: BArch, N 1826 Bild-1691 [=12.1_F1277], [n.d.]

BArch, N 1826 Bild-1945 [=17.1_F1720], [n.d.]

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-2086 [=21.1_F2109], [n.d.]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV 1/15

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible reference:

Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/183, fol. 385ff. [=vol. 8, fol. 306ff.] Dr. A. Rieth to Hildebrand Gurlitt, December 1947 and January 1948

akg-images:

Bildarchiv André Held, no. 1057

29 November 2018 (interim results) 

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Archives de Paris:
D 48E3 73. Procès-verbal, Auctioneer Paul Chevallier, Vente Gérard père, 25 February 1896

Galerie Durand-Ruel, Paris (Archive):
Probably no. 2524

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris:
209SUP/695 & 209SUP/35. CRA: Collection Dreyfus, Vente Monaco 1949, Huissier Pissarelo

Further sources consulted (selected):

Archives Municipales, Monaco
Archives Princières, Monaco
Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume
Database “Central Collecting Point München”
Database “Entartete Kunst”
Database “Kunstsammlung Hermann Göring”
Fondation Espace Held, Lausanne
Galerie Heinemann Online
Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs
Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)
Lootedart.com
Lost Art
Médiathèque de l'architecture et du patrimoine, Fort de Saint-Cyr (Fonds Vizzavona)

29 November 2018 (interim results) www.lostart.de/EN/Fund/573683
Musée d’Orsay, Paris (Documentation de la conservation)
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke (“Reichsliste von 1938”)
Witt Library, London

Note:
This work is also known as *Isaure en bacchante* and *Jeune femme au chevreau*. Courbet himself is said to have referred to this painting as *La Petite Bacchante* (cf. Fernier 1977, no. 271).
A second, slightly bigger version of this work is known to have belonged to Alphonse Kann. The painting was confiscated by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg but restituted to Kann in 1947. The sale in 1896 at Hôtel Drouot was a liquidation sale of the art dealership of Félix Gerard senior (1865?–?). Félix Gerard himself bought the work at this auction, probably to keep it in the collection.
His son Raphaël Louis Félix Gerard (1886–1963) offered this work for sale in 1949 in Monaco, however, it remains uncertain if the painting was sold and to whom. The auction references the origin of the works within the Gerard collection to the estate of “Mme Diard”. The identity of said collector has not been established yet. Since the Gerard family were active art dealers, the possibility that the painting was sold and reacquired between 1896 and 1949 cannot be excluded.
A reference to the painting, found in the image library of André Held, now at the Archiv für Kunst und Geschichte (akg-images), substantiates this possibility. The index card indicates the provenance of this work as “Paris. Collection Rousso” in the 1940s, which possibly refers to Galerie Mercedes Rousso, 26 rue de Seine, Paris. It has, to date, not been possible to verify this statement.
It seems likely that Hildebrand Gurlitt acquired the work through Gerard, with whom he had close commercial ties. The painting features on two inventories of artworks, respectively dating to 28 April 1944 and September 1953, which were drawn up in collaboration with Gerard. It remains unclear if Gurlitt had already acquired the work before the 1949 auction and commissioned Gerard with the (unsuccessful) sale of the painting or whether he acquired it after 1950 when the work was offered at the Marlborough Gallery in London.
The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 21.1_F2109 is an interior shot of the Gurlitt family residence in Dusseldorf, with this painting mounted on the wall.

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