After Jean-Honoré Fragonard
Femme avec deux enfants (Woman with two children)

Pencil and watercolour on paper, 213 x 283 mm (with mount: 244 x 332 mm)
on recto, inscribed on mount: “H. Fragonard 1732–1806”
on verso, centre right, inscribed in blue pen: “23 A”
on matting, verso, inscribed in pen: “21”

Provenance:
(…)
By latest 28 April 1944: Raphaël Gerard, Paris (per Gurlitt Papers)
After September 1953: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf (per Gurlitt Papers)
Thence by descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg
From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Primary sources:
Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:
Gerard Files: BArch, N 1826/46, fol. 1 ff. List Raphaël Gerard, 28 April 1944, item no. 21
Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], item no. 21
Miscellaneous: BArch, N 1826/185. Hildebrand Gurlitt travel itinerary, 1941–1945
Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-1814 [=12.1_F12150], [18 February 1944]
Register of Salzburg works, 2014, no. Wien 183_86

Further sources consulted:


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, The Hague

Note:

This work was one of over 70 works with the art dealer Raphaël Gerard in Paris in 1944. It is unclear whether at the time Gerard and/or Gurlitt owned or co-owned these works, whether they had been placed on commission, or indeed simply deposited with Gerard. It is conspicuous that an inventory of works with Gerard was drawn up in the very late stages of the war; one possible hypothesis is that Gurlitt placed for safekeeping with Gerard works that he had acquired in occupied Paris, with the intention of moving these objects at a later date.
In 1953, some of these works were shipped to Gurlitt in Dusseldorf, while others remained with Gerard until 1957 (at Gurlitt’s cost). The inscription “21” on verso refers to two inventories of artworks with Gerard, one dated 28 April 1944, the other dating from about September 1953. This work is respectively referred to herein as “Fragonard: Portrait de femme” (1944) and “Fragonard: Frau mit Kind” (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1_F12150 is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, statements of authenticity by art expert André Schoeller of Paris, 13, Rue de Téhéran, dated 18 February 1944, as well as art expert Paul Cailleux, dated 18 February 1966.

According to an entry in his travel itinerary, Hildebrand Gurlitt visited Paris 14–23 February 1944; it is possible that he acquired this work during the course of that stay.

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