



Willem van de Velde, the Younger (?)

Seascape with sailing ships

Oil on canvas, 102 x 146 cm (105 x 148.5 cm)

on verso, on canvas, upper left, inscribed in white chalk: "x"

on verso, on stretcher, upper right, remnants of printed label: "[...]91 191"; on vertical stretcher bar, at top, small handwritten label, "B 25 [?]; horizontal stretcher bar, left, inscribed in black: "58"

Provenance:

(...)

By latest 28 April 1944: with 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. 58
Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], item no. 58

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-2056 [=17.1_F17118], [n.d.]
BArch, N 1826 Bild-2057 [=17.1_F17118_1], [n.d.]
BArch, N 1826 Bild-2058 [=17.1_F17118_2], [n.d.]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/093

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/180, fol. 67 [=vol. 12, fol. 354]. Hermann Lutz to Hildebrand Gurlitt, 10 September 1946

Sales ledger 1937–41: 15 September 1943 [no. 178]

Further sources consulted (selected):

Baard, H. P. *Willem van de Velde de oude: Willem van de Velde de jonge*. Amsterdam: H. J. W. Becht, 1942.

Ludolf Bakhuizen (1631–1708): Schryfmeester – Teyckenaer – Schilder. Exh. cat., Rijksmuseum Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam, 1 July–26 August 1985.

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Russell, Margareta. *Willem van de Velde de Jonge: Het IJ voor Amsterdam met de Gouden Leeuw*. Haarlem: H. W. J. Becht, 1992.

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Beer, Gerlinde de. *Ludolf Backhuysen (1630–1708): Sein Leben und Werk*. Zwolle: Waanders, 2002.

Alinari Archives, Florence

Archives de Paris

Archives Nationales, Paris

bpk-Bildagentur

Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen, Berlin

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”

Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek

Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Het Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam

Kunsthandel P. de Boer, Amsterdam (Archive)

Landesarchiv Berlin

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Musée du Louvre, Paris (Département des Peintures, Documentation générale)

National Archives, College Park, Maryland

National Archives, London (Image Library)

National Maritime Museum, London

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rheinisches Bildarchiv, Cologne

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke (“Reichsliste von 1938”)

Witt Library, London

Zentralarchiv der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Note:

This painting was formerly attributed to Ludolf Backhysen and Gerrit/Gerard Pompe respectively. It is, in all probability, a work by Willem van de Velde the Younger.

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 "58" 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 "VAN de VELDE: Grande marine avec voiliers" (1944) and "v. d. Velde – Große Marine – Oel –" (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photographs nos. 17.1_F17118, 17.1_F17118_1 and 17.1_F17118_2 are reproductions of this work.

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 16 August 2018.

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