



Gustave Courbet (?)
Still life with peaches

Oil on canvas, 28.3 x 37.8 cm
on recto, lower right, signed in red: "G. C.[?]"

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

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0288 [=3.2_F338] [n.d.]

Register of Salzburg works, 2014, no. Wien 007

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

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Note:

This work is not included in the Courbet catalogue raisonné by Robert Fernier.

This painting 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). There are two inventories of artworks with Gerard, one dated 28 April 1944, the other dating from about September 1953. This work is referred to herein as "Courbet: Les Pêches" (1944) and "Courbet: Die Früchte" (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 3.2_F338 is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, an undated statement of authenticity by the art dealer Raphaël Gerard.

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