



Eugène Delacroix

Lion qui se lèche la patte (Lion licking his paw), 1859

Ink and watercolour on paper, 320 x 453 mm (430 x 566 mm)

on recto, printed inscription at lower centre: "Eug. DELACROIX", inscribed in ink lower left: "27 août, Strg [Strasbourg] 59.", upper left: "[illegible]"

on verso, inscribed in white chalk upper right: "12", in pencil on backing board centre left: "12"

Cat. Rais.: Robaut 1885 No. 1402

Provenance:

Before 1885: Léon Riesener (per cat. rais. Robaut)

(...)

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

Bibliographical references:

Robaut, Alfred. *L'œuvre complet de Eugène Delacroix: peintures, dessins, gravures, lithographies, 1813–1863*. Paris: Charavay Frères, 1885. [no. 1402, ill.]

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. 12

Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], item no. 12

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0781 [=7.1_F708], [24 March 1944]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/132

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Correspondence: 3 November 1947 [vol. 10, fol. 316]
Imports & exports ledger: September 1941 [fol. J. 49]
17 June 1943 [fol. J. 72]
18 June 1943 [fol. J. 72]

Further sources consulted:

- Exposition des œuvres d'Eugène Delacroix*. Exh. cat., Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris, 1864.
Catalogue de la vente qui aura lieu par suite du décès de Eugène Delacroix. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 17–29 February 1864.
Collection Étienne Arago. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 4–5 May 1892.
Eugène Delacroix. Exh. cat., Salon Paul Cassirer, Berlin, 4 November–4 December 1907.
Von Delacroix bis Picasso: hundert Gemälde, Aquarelle und Zeichnungen französischer Meister des XIX. Jahrhunderts. Exh. cat., Kunsthandlung Hugo Perls, Berlin, February–March 1925.
Handzeichnungen moderner Meister (= Auktion XLVIII). Auct. cat., Paul Graupe, Berlin, 11–12 September 1925.
Escholier, Raymond. *Delacroix: Peintre, graveur, écrivain*. 3 vols. Paris: Henri Floury, 1926–1929.
Exposition E. Delacroix. Exh. cat., Musée du Louvre, Paris, June–July 1930.
Roger-Marx, Claude. *Dessins et peintures des Maîtres du XIXe siècle à nos jours: Choix de cinquante dessins de Eugène Delacroix*. Paris: Braun, 1933.
Catalogue des tableaux, aquarelles et dessins par Eugène Delacroix composant la collection M. Georges Aubry. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 11 March 1933.
Correspondance d'Eugène Delacroix. Joubin, André. 5 vols. Paris: Plon, 1936.
Ingres – Delacroix. Exh. cat., Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, January–February 1936.
Eugène Delacroix: 1798–1863: Exposition du Centenaire. Exh. cat., Musée du Louvre, Paris, May–September 1963.
Sérullaz, Maurice. *Dessins d'Eugène Delacroix: 1798–1863*. 2 vols. Paris: Réunion des musées nationaux, 1984.
Delacroix: Le voyage au Maroc. Exh. cat., Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, 27 September 1994–15 January 1995.
Delteil, Loys. *Delacroix: The Graphic Work: A Catalogue Raisonné*. 1st ed., Paris: self-publ., 1908; transl. and rev. by Susan Strauber, San Francisco: Alan Wofsy, 1997.
Dessins romantiques français: provenant de collections privées parisiennes, Exh. cat., Musée de la vie romantique, Paris, 3 May–15 July 2001.
Hannoosh, Michèle. *Eugène Delacroix: Journal*. 2 vols. Paris: José Corti, 2009.
Lhinares, Laurence, and Louis-Antoine Prat. “Fauves et faux (cachets),” pp. 25–38. In: *Bulletin de la Société des Amis du Musée national Eugène Delacroix*. Vol. 10, Paris, 2012.
Delacroix en heritage: Autour de la collection Moreau-Nélaton. Exh. cat., Musée National Eugène Delacroix, Paris, 11 December 2013–17 March 2014.

Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume

Database “Catalogue des ventes publiques de peintures et de dessins d'Eugène Delacroix”

Database “Central Collecting Point München”

Database “Inventaire du département des arts graphiques au Louvre”

Database “Kunstsammlung Hermann Göring”

Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Witt Library, London

Note:

The first known owner of this work is the painter Léon Riesener (1808 Paris–1878 Paris), who was Eugène Delacroix' first cousin. Owing to the unspecific work titles listed in the catalogue of the sale of Riesener's estate (which was held at Hôtel Drouot in Paris, 10–11 April 1879), it has not been possible to identify the respective work. Until now, there is also no indication that the work retained by the family, possibly passing by descent to Riesener's daughter Louise Léouzon Le Duc (1860–1944).

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 "12" 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 "DELACROIX: Dessin à la plume, (lion)" (1944) and "Delacroix: Federzeichnung Löwe" (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 7.1_F708 is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, a statement of authenticity by the art expert André Schoeller of Paris, 13, Rue de Téhéran, dated 24 March 1944.

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 7 November 2017.

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