



**Ernest Durig (Counterfeit work after Auguste Rodin)
Danseuse Cambodgienne (Cambodian Dancer)**

Pencil and gouache on paper, mounted on cardboard, 320 x 237 mm (512 x 419 mm)
on recto, lower right, signed in pencil: "Aug Rodin"; lower centre, printed on matting: "A. Rodin"
on verso, upper right corner, handwritten label: "Dr G"

Provenance:

(...)

Possible sale: Tableaux modernes, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 15 December 1943, lot 28

André Schoeller, Paris, acquired at the above sale (per Archives de Paris)

Probably thereafter acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt through André Schoeller

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical reference:

Tableaux modernes, aquarelles, gouaches, pastels, dessins. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 15 December 1943. [possibly lot 28, as *Danseuse indochinoise*]

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0012 [=2.2_F209], [12 November 1943]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV Part 2/121

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 4 April 1938 [no. 60]
22 September 1941 [no. 114]

Archives de Paris:

D149E3 17. Auctioneer Alphonse Bellier, Procès-verbal, 15 December 1943

Further sources consulted (selected):

Bénédite, Léonce. *Rodin*. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1927.

Bücher, Handzeichnungen, Gemälde, Graphik des 16.–20. Jahrhunderts. Auct. cat., Max Perl, Berlin, 18–19 May 1933.

Exposición Rodin. Exh. cat., Museo nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, October 1934.

Catalogue des tableaux modernes: aquarelles, pastels, gouaches, dessins (...) provenant de la Collection Georges Bernheim. Auct. cat., Galerie Jean Charpentier, Paris, 1935.

Les ventes de tableaux, aquarelles, gouaches, dessins, miniatures à l'Hôtel Drouot. Vol. September 1941–July 1942. Paris: self-publ., 1942.

Tableaux modernes. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 15 December 1943. [possibly lot 28 ?]

Collection André Schoeller. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 14–16 May 1956.

Elsen, Albert Edward, and Kirk Varnedoe. *The Drawings of Rodin*. London: Elek Books, 1972.

Thorson, Victoria. *Rodin Graphics: A Catalogue Raisonné of Drypoints and Book Illustrations*. San Francisco: Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, 1975.

Champigneulle, Bernard. *Rodin*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1980.

Rodin: Sculpture & Drawings. Exh. cat., Arts Council of Great Britain, London, 1 November 1986–25 January 1987.

Sollers, Philippe. *Auguste Rodin: die erotischen Zeichnungen, Aquarelle und Collagen*. Munich: Schirmer Mosel, 1987.

Figures d' ombres: Les dessins de Auguste Rodin: Une production de la Maison Goupil. Exh. cat., Musée Goupil, Bordeaux, 10 May–10 August 1996.

Auguste Rodin: aquarelli e disegni erotici. Exh. cat., Palazzo Magnani, Milan, 14 June–31 August 2003.

Normand-Romain, Antoinette Le. *Auguste Rodin: dessins et aquarelles*. Paris: Hazan, 2006.

Christina Buley-Urbe. "Du vrai et du faux: Les dessins de Rodin du fonds du musée d'Orsay," pp. 77–89. In: *La Revue des musées de France: Revue du Louvre*, no. 1 (2014).

Archives Nationales, Paris

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"

Galerie Heinemann Online

Galerie Sagot – Le Garrec, Paris (Private archive)

Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)

Institut national d'histoire de l'art (French sale catalogues)

Les Archives Municipales de Nancy

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris (Centre de Documentation)
Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris
Musée d'Orsay, Paris (Documentation de la conservation)
Musée Rodin, Paris (Archives)
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")
Witt Library, London

Note:

The attribution of this work to Auguste Rodin, as initially published on Lostart.de, could not be substantiated. Research has shown this to be a counterfeit work. The paper and technique is characteristic of Ernest Durig (1894–1962), a sculptor who claimed to have been Rodin's last student. In 1915, Durig was permitted to view drawings in Rodin's studio, and most likely he was then able to steal original materials and paper supplies.

Historians usually date the beginning of Durig's forging career to 1928, when Durig moved to the United States and fake Rodin works on paper began to proliferate on the American art market. An exhibition at the Leonard Clayton Gallery in New York showed works from the Durig collection in 1937, for example. More recent research, however, suggests that Durig's activities commenced during Rodin's lifetime. In the 1930s and 1940s, many of those fakes were acquired by private and public collections.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 2.2_F209 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 18 February 1944. This document shows that the work was on the market in the 1940s in occupied France; there is a high probability that Gurlitt acquired the work during that period.

The latter is supported by the sale of a Rodin drawing at the auction house Hôtel Drouot on 15 December 1943 in Paris. Lot 28 matches the present drawing, however the lack of a photographic reproduction makes a clear identification impossible. According to the auction protocol, the work was acquired by art dealer André Schoeller. A consignor could not be established.

We gratefully acknowledge the help of Christina Buley-Urbe in cataloguing 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 31 August 2018.

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