



David Cornelisz de Heem (attributed to)
Still life with flowers, oranges and butterfly, c. 1680–1691

Oil on canvas, 70.20 x 56 cm

on recto, lower right, signed in black: "D. De Heem"

on verso, upper left, inscribed in white chalk: "DG 6"; upper right, handwritten label inscribed in black: "517/" and in red: "D. G"; on vertical stretcher bar, inscribed in white: "K [?]", in pencil, "24", "31" [crossed out], in white: "70 x 56"; at left, inscribed in pencil: "X", "X"; on horizontal stretcher bar, right, in white chalk: "DG 6"

Provenance:

(...)

By 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. 31 (?)

Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], item no. 31 (?)

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0085 [=2.2_F270], [n.d.]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 1)/008

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–41: 20 March 1939 [no. 69]
Sales ledger 1937–?: 20 February 1939 [no. 1220]
20 March 1939 [no. 1220]

Further sources consulted:

Segal, Sam. *Jan Davidsz de Heem en zijn Kring*. Utrecht: SDU Uitg, 1991.

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

Herkomst Gezocht

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Musée du Louvre, Documentation générale

Nationaal Archief, The Hague

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke (“Reichsliste von 1938”)

Witt Library, London

Note:

This painting was traditionally attributed to the Dutch painter David Cornelisz de Heem. At the time of cataloguing, this attribution was not confirmed.

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). The inscription “31” 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 “Heem: Fleurs et oranges” (1944) and “Heem: Blumen und Orangen Oel” (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt’s Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 2.2_F270 is a reproduction 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 15 August 2017.

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