



Jean-François Millet

Étude pour “L’Attente” (Study for “The Waiting”), before 1860

Pencil on paper, 45 x 35 mm

on recto, lower left, black stamp: “J. F. M.” [Lugt 3728]

on verso, stamp at upper left: [illegible]

Provenance:

Estate of the artist

Sale: Vente Veuve Millet, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 24–25 April 1894 (per stamp)

Saül Mayer, Paris, acquired at the above sale (?) (per annotated auct. cat. and procès-verbal)
(...)

(Probably acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt in France in the 1940s)

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Bibliographical references:

Catalogue de dessins, tableaux et esquisses par J. F. Millet: Tableaux anciens, meubles et objets d’art: Faiences dependant de la Succession de Madame Veuve J. F. Millet. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 24–25 April 1894. [possibly lot 149, *Etude pour “L’attente”*]

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Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-0953 [=9.1_F940], [6 October 1943]

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Archives de Paris:

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Folder Jean-François Millet [variant composition]

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J.-F. Millet dessinateur. Exh. cat., Galerie Hector Brame, Paris, 31 January–19 February 1938.

Catalogue des meubles et objets d'art anciens et modernes: Par ou attribués à Allegri, Cipriani, Créti, Duplessis-Berteaux, Fragonard, Lorenzo di Ferrara, Millet [...]. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 17 July 1941.

Tableaux, pastels, aquarelles, dessins: Par Adrion, Basile Leblanc, E. Bernard, R. Bonheur, Bonnard, Boussingault, Brouet, E. Cabane, Cals, Chéret, G. Colin, Cottet, Cross, Degas [...] Millet [...]. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 17 June 1942.

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Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Note:

The Millet drawings found in the Schwabing Art Trove are typical of his oeuvre during his residence near Fontainebleau, where he arrived in 1871. He concentrated on capturing the landscape and the humble inhabitants of this region.

The stamp "J F M" [Lugt 3728] indicates that the work was in the possession of Millet's widow and was auctioned after her death in 1894. As the auction catalogue is not illustrated, a conclusive identification of the work was not possible. The drawing in question might have been auctioned as part of lot 149, which comprises three small-format drawings by Millet, each possibly corresponding to works found in the Art Trove (Lost Art IDs 478201, 478202, 478203). According to an annotated copy of the catalogue and sale records preserved at the Archives de Paris, lot 149 was acquired by "S. Mayer". Said buyer might have been Saül Mayer (16 November 1847 – 31 March 1896) who was an art dealer and expert for drawings with residence at 5 rue Laffitte, Paris.

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 9.1_F940 is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, a statements of authenticity by the art expert André Schoeller of Paris, 13, Rue de Téhéran, dated 6 October 1943. 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 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 24 November 2017.

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