



(Workshop of) Gustave Courbet
Rochers près d'un étang (Rocks by a Pond)

Oil on canvas, 65 x 81 cm

on recto, signed lower right: "G. Courbet" [the canvas was cut]

on verso, frame, upper right, inscribed in pencil: "[...]16"; upper centre, inscribed in pencil: "16 J. [...?]", "BPA"; upper right, inscribed in blue crayon: "Wie 1937/16"; inscribed in pencil: "79"; centre right, inscribed in ink: "3250 79 [?]"

centre stretcher bar, two typewritten labels: "Umkreis d.h. Mitarbeiter von Gustave Courbet (Oranans bei Besançon 1819–La Tour de Peilz, Schweiz, 1877) Jura Landschaft. Laut Epertise von Jean-Jacques Fernier vom Institut Gustave Courbet in Ornans (1. Februar 2006, s. Unterlagen) handelt"; "es sich um das Werk eines Mitarbeiters (wohl Marcel Ordinaire 1848–1896), wie sie Courbet seit Sommer 1872 beschäftigte, mit Korrekturen des Malers. In der Signatur 'G. Courbet' ist das t bei der Rentoilage samt einer Partie rechts entfallen. Ohnehin könnte der Namenszug von einem Mitarbeiter eingefügt worden sein. Fernier nennt den Grund, weist auch auf Mängel im Erhaltungszustand des Bildes hin."

Provenance:

(...)

Probably with Theo Hermsen, Paris (per Archives diplomatiques)

20 August 1943: Hildebrand Gurlitt, acquired from the above ? (per Archives diplomatiques)

1945–1950 Central Collecting Point Wiesbaden, no. WIE 1937/16

From 15 December 1950: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf

Thence by descent: Private Collection, South Germany

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130 [2 March 1980 et al.]
 BArch, N 1826 Bild-2196 [31 December 1979]

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/183, fol. 385 [=vol. 8, fol. 306ff.]. Dr. A. Rieth to Hildebrand Gurlitt, 29 December 1947

Sales ledger 1937–41: 27 January 1940 [no. 85]

24 February 1940 [no. 101]
 21 June 1941

Sales ledger 1937–?: 21 June 1937 [no. 662]
 17 January 1940 [no. 1298]
 24 February 1940 [no. 1298]

Imports and exports ledger: 27 January 1940 [no. 1298]
 24 February 1940 [no. 1298]
 September 1941 [no. J. 49]

Current (checking) account: 21 June 1937
 30 June 1937
 27 January 1940 [W. 18]
 31 January 1940 [J. 18]
 24 February 1940 [W. 18]
 28 February 1940 [J. 18]
 28 September 1942 [no. W. 40]
 on a separate sheet [no. 35]

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris
 Demandes de licences d'exportation, no. 209SUP/1148 [20 August 1943]

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

M1947, Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, Property card no. WIE 1937/16
www.fold3.com/image/231951943/ (3 March 2017)

Further sources consulted:

Exposition des Œuvres de G. Courbet. Exh. cat., L'École des Beaux-Arts, Paris, May 1882.

Catalogue de tableaux, études, esquisses et dessins par Gustave Courbet dépendant de sa succession et ayant en partie figuré à l'exposition de l'École des Beaux Arts. Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 28 June 1882.

Catalogue de Tableaux Modernes [...] par suite au décès de M. Félix Gérard père [...] Auct. cat., Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 28–29 March 1905.

Riat, Georges. *Gustave Courbet: Peintre*. Paris, Floury: 1906.

Bénédite, Léonce and Jean Lara, Philippe Gaston-Dreyfus. *Courbet: 48 planches hors-texte accompagnées de 48 notices: L'Art de notre temps*. Paris: Renaissance du livre, 1911.

Annuaire de la curiosité et des beaux-arts et de la bibliophilie, vols. 1911–1914, 1920, 1922, 1924–1940.

Duret, Théodore. *Courbet*. Paris, Bernheim-Jeune: 1918.

Exposition Courbet. Exh. cat., Bernheim-Jeune, Paris, 18–31 July 1919.

Exposition Gustave Courbet. Exh. cat., Petit Palais, May–June 1929.

Courthion, Pierre. *Courbet*. Paris: Floury, 1931.

Exposition Gustave Courbet. Exh. cat., Ville d'Ornans, 23 July–1 October 1939.

Les ventes de tableaux, aquarelles, gouaches, dessins, miniatures à l'Hôtel Drouot. Vol. October 1940–July 1941, Paris: self-publ., 1941.

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

Les ventes de tableaux, aquarelles, gouaches, dessins, miniatures à l'Hôtel Drouot. Vol. September 1942–July 1943. Paris: self-publ., 1943.

Fernier, Robert. *La vie et l'œuvre de Gustave Courbet: Catalogue raisonné*. 2 vols. Lausanne: La Bibliothèque des Arts, 1977–1978.

Courthion, Pierre. *L'opera completa di Courbet*. Rizzoli Editore, Milan: 1985.

Courbet Reconsidered. Exh. cat., The Brooklyn Museum, 4 November 1988–16 January 1989; The Minneapolis Institute of Art, 18 February 1989–30 April 1989.

Herding, Klaus. *Courbet: To Venture Independence*. New Haven/London: Yale Univ. Press, 1991.

Bajou, Valérie. *Courbet*. Société Nouvelle Adam Biro, 2005.

Sanchez, Pierre. *Les expositions de la Galerie Eugène Druet*. Dijon: L'Échelle de Jacob, 2009.

Gustave Courbet: Les années suisses. Exh. cat., Musée Rath, Geneva, 5 September 2014–4 January 2015.

akg-images

Archives Nationales, Paris

Bildarchiv Foto Marburg (Bildindex)

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"

Database "Sonderauftrag Linz"

Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Herkomst Gezocht

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Musée d'Orsay, Paris (Documentation de la conservation)

National Archives, College Park, Maryland

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Witt Library, London

Note:

This work is listed on an export license from France which was issued to Theo Hermesen on behalf of Hildebrand Gurlitt in August 1943.

Expert opinion points out that this work might have been executed at least partly by Courbet's workshop. Consequently, the work is not included in the catalogue raisonné of Courbet by Robert Fernier.

As the canvas seems to have been cut on the right it is likely that the original painting was wider. This alteration was possibly undertaken before 1945 because the dimensions given on the Central Collecting Point card as well as the photo taken at that time match the current state.

Interior shots of the family residence in Southern Germany, dating from 1979 et al., show the artwork on display.

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