



After Hubert Robert

Escalier dans un parc avec personnages (Stairs in a Garden with Figures)

Oil on panel, 16 x 20 cm

on verso, frame, centre right, inscribed in pencil: "87"; and again lower left; centre, white label: "Hubert Robert (Paris 1733–Paris 1808)"

on panel, upper centre, inscribed in black ink: "No. 15 Robert"; centre right, inscribed in black: "Robert"

Provenance:

(...)

Roger Delapalme, Paris

Acquired after February 1941: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Hamburg (per Gurlitt Papers)

Thence by descent: Private Collection, South Germany

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Delapalme Files: BArch, N 1826/49. Appraisal François Max-Kann, 25 February 1941
Ibid. Supplement List François Max-Kann ("Betr. Dr. Gurlitt"), n.d.

Miscellaneous: BArch, N 1826/185. Hildebrand Gurlitt travel itinerary, 1941–1945

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-1221 [=9.2_F9282], [10 June 1942]
BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130 [January 1981]

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible reference:

Current (checking) account: 1 November 1943 [no. 79]
31 December 1943 [no. 82]

Further sources consulted (selected):

Nolhac, Pierre de. *Hubert Robert 1733-1808*. Paris: Goupil & Cie, 1910.

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

Leclère, Léon. *Hubert Robert et les paysagistes françaises du XVIII siècle*. Paris: Renouard, 1913.

Hubert Robert et Louis Moreau. Exh. cat., Galerie Jean Charpentier, Paris, June 1922.

Exposition Hubert Robert: à l'occasion du deuxième centenaire de sa naissance. Exh. cat., Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, 1933.

Exposition Esquisses [...] peintures et sculptures de l'école française du XVIIIe siècle. Exh. cat., Galerie Cailleux, Paris, 12–24 March 1934.

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

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Hubert Robert, Louis Moreau: Exposition du cent-cinquantième de leur mort. Exh. cat., Galerie Cailleux, Paris, 26 November–20 December 1957.

Cayeux, Jean de. *Hubert Robert et ses jardins*. Paris: Herscher, 1987.

Brajović, Saša, and Tatjana Bosnjak. *Imaginary Gardens of Hubert Robert*. Belgrade: National Museum, 2012.

Hubert Robert. Exh. cat., Musée du Louvre, Paris, 9 March–30 May 2016; National Gallery of Art, Washington, 26 June–2 October 2016.

akg-images

Archives de Paris

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

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris

Musée du Louvre, Documentation générale

Musée du Petit Palais, Paris (Documentation Marianne Roland-Michel)

Répertoire des Biens Spoliés

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague

Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")

Witt Library, London

Note:

According to expert opinion, the authenticity of this painting is questionable. It is possible that this work was created after Hubert Robert either by a contemporary or in the 19th century.

The first known owner of this work, Roger Delapalme (1892 Paris–1969 Paris), was the son of the public notary Pierre-Marie Delapalme. Roger Delapalme was professionally employed in the management of the Compagnie des Courtiers Jurés d'assurances, an insurance company, where he served first as Treasurer and then as Deputy Director. His wife Yvonne was the daughter of Henry Chabert, the director of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas. The couple lived in Paris at 17 rue du Général-Foy and since 1929/30 at 65 rue La Boétie.

The extant papers of Cornelius Gurlitt contain an inventory of art works said to belong to Roger Delapalme of Paris, 65, rue La Boétie, as appraised by the art expert François Max-Kann in early 1941. This appraisal itemizes 40 lots (comprising a total of 58 artworks), including this Robert painting. While the exact circumstances of the transaction are not yet known, it is most likely that Gurlitt acquired these works after February 1941, possibly through Max-Kann who may have acted as intermediary.

Among the personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home is a collection of about 2400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 9.2_F9282, is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso, a statement of authenticity by François Max-Kann, dated 10 June 1942.

According to an entry in his travel itinerary, Hildebrand Gurlitt visited Paris 7/8–14 June 1942; it is possible that he acquired this work during the course of that stay.

Photograph no. N 1826 Bild-2130 shows the artwork on the wall of the family residence in Southern Germany in 1981.

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