

Lot 717



Auction	Fine Art
Date	19.05.2022, ca. 12:41
Preview	13.05.2022 - 10:00:00 bis 16.05.2022 - 18:00:00

STUCK, FRANZ VON
1863 Tettenweis - 1928 Tetschen

Title: Portrait of Two Sisters.

Technique: Oil on card.

Measurement: 48 x 55cm.

Notation: Signed lower right: Franz / von / Stuck.

Frame/Pedestal: Framed.

Provenance:

Schnabel Collection, Wiesbaden, until 1944;

Collection Dr. Walter Schnabel, Duisburg, by inheritance 1944;

Sold by Duisburg lawyer Dr. Walter Schnabel to Juliane Harms in 1944;

Contribution by Juliane Harms on behalf of Hermann Voss to the "Sonderauftrag Linz" 1944 (with verso number "3390" on frame). Cf.: Iselt, Kathrin: "Sonderbeauftragter des Führers". The art historian and curator Hermann Voss, Cologne 2010, p. 150;

Verlust aus dem Central Collecting Point, Munich 1945;

presumably art dealer Abels, Cologne 1950s/60s;

Auction Christie's, London June 1981 (without bid; with verso number "CC960" and date "19-6-81" and "Lot 136");

Private ownership, Cologne until 2017;

Auction VAN HAM, Cologne, 17.11.2017;

Private ownership, Cologne since 2018.

Results of the restitution research:

Ms. Amelie Ebbinghaus of ArtLoss Register wrote in an email to VAN HAM on 7th July, 2017, that the painting is not registered as missing in their database. Nor can she identify a sale in the 1930s/40s through Getty or HEIDI. So far, no evidence emerges for her that the work was with persecuted owners before Schnabel or that Schnabel himself was persecuted;

There is also no entry for the present double portrait in the Lost Art database;

Dr. Meike Hopp of the Project for the Reconstruction of the "Führerbau Theft" at the Central Institute for Art History in Munich writes in an email to VAN HAM on 11th July, 2017, that there is no reference to the painting in the databases of the Heinemann Gallery, the Weinmüller Auction House, or in the photo archive of the Julius Böhler Gallery. Nor can it be found in the holdings of the Photothek at the ZI.

On the question of the loss from the CCP in Munich, Harald König of the Federal Office for Unresolved Property Issues confirms in an email dated 01.09.2017 that the painting was stolen from the holdings of the CCP Munich in 1945 and that the Federal Republic as legal successor will not assert a claim for restitution.

This statement is confirmed by Heike Impelmann as head of department of the art administration of the Federal Republic in an email dated 22.01.2018 and points out that a Nazi persecution-related loss in the period between 1933-1943 can neither be confirmed nor excluded.

As a formative founding member of the Munich Secession and professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, Franz von Stuck was intimately interwoven with the city's society. In addition to his Symbolist and Art Nouveau works, whose themes oscillate between mythological and erotic subjects, he also appeared time and again as a portraitist. Very well known are his many variations with which he immortalized his daughter Mary.

Like his painter colleague and friend Franz von Lenbach, Stuck also frequently posed the rich and beautiful of Munich society, the aristocracy and politics. Both of these artists, who were ennobled as princes of painting, interwove their private lives with the public with their lavish and fanciful parties, their villas that dominated the cityscape, and their public appearances. The two young ladies shown here are testimony to their mutual respect and attachment: in the families of the previous owners, the two girls were considered Lenbach's daughters, whom Stuck portrayed.

Estimate: 10.000 € - 15.000 €; Hammer: 14.000 €
