



Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller

Bildnis zweier Frauen (Portrait of Two Ladies), 1831

Oil on canvas, 95.5 x 75.5 cm (with frame: 121.1 x 101.3 cm)

on recto, lower right, signed and dated: "Waldmüller 1831"

on verso, frame, lower left, handwritten label: "Dieses Doppelportrait von Waldmüller ist eine Leihgabe von Cornelius Gurlitt, Salzburg. Kornwestheim, 1. August 2012, Dr. Nikolaus Fräßle"

on horizontal stretcher bar, typewritten label: "Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller (Wien 1793–Hinterbrühl bei Mödling 1865) Bildnis zweier Frauen. Öl auf Leinwand. Unten rechts signiert und datiert: Waldmüller 1831"

Provenance:

Lumpe Family (per Frimmel)

By latest 1907 until at least 1914: Grete Hartmann, Vienna (per Frimmel; Roessler and Pisko)

Sale: 268. Kunstauktion, Dorotheum, Vienna, 14 December 1916, lot 259

By 1921: with Wendlinger (per Waldmüller Archive)

By March 1924: with Charles Sedelmeyer ? (per Waldmüller Archive)

(...)

By latest 28 April 1944: Raphaël Gerard, Paris (per Gurlitt Papers)

(before August 1944, offered by Hildebrand Gurlitt to Hermann Voss)

After September 1953: Hildebrand Gurlitt, Dusseldorf (per Gurlitt Papers)

Thence by descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

On extended loan to private collection, Southern Germany (per label on verso)

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

Exhibitions:

Das Wiener Porträt in der ersten Hälfte des XIX Jahrhundert, Galerie Miethke, Vienna, April–May 1905, cat. no. 14, “Doppelbildnis” ? (as property of Dr. Ludo Hartmann)

Ausstellung Meisterwerke österreichischer Malerei 1800–1930. Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, 16 May–28 June 1959. [no. 211]

Bibliographical references:

Roessler, Arthur, and Gustav Pisko. *Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller*. Vienna: self-published, 1907. [no. 64, ill.]

Frimmel, Theodor. *Lexikon der Wiener Gemäldesammlungen*. Vol. II, G–L. Munich: Müller, 1914. [p. 126]

268. *Kunstauktion (Gemälde, Antiquitäten, Nachlass-Sammlungen: Dr. Heinrich Modern et al)*. Auct. cat., Dorotheum, Vienna, 14 December 1916. [lot 259, as *Die beiden Schwestern*, pl. 19]

“Waldmüller-Bilder,” in: *Internationale Sammler-Zeitung*, vol. 8, no. 24 (15 December 1916). [p. 207]

“Die Kunstauktion im Wiener Dorotheum,” in: *Internationale Sammler-Zeitung*, vol. 9, no. 1 (1 January 1917). [p. 6–9]

Grimschitz, Bruno. *Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller*. Salzburg: Galerie Welz, 1957. [no. 277, ill.].

Müller, Gisela. *Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller: Ein Beitrag zum Frauenbildnis im Biedermeier*. St. Augustin: Bernd Kretschner, 1985. [p. 176 f.]

Feuchtmüller, Rupert. *Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller: 1793–1865*. Vienna: Brandstätter, 1996. [no. 304, ill.]

Galerie Miethke: Eine Kunsthandlung im Zentrum der Moderne. Exh. cat., Jüdisches Museum der Stadt Wien, 19 November 2003–8 February 2004. [p. 198]

Doppler-Wagner, Elke. *Zur künstlerischen Rezeption Ferdinand Georg Waldmüllers*. Doctoral diss., University of Vienna, 2007. [p. 21]

Primary sources:

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Correspondence: BArch, N 1826/172, fol. 223-228 [=vol. 5, fol. 108 f.] Dr. Peters to Helene Gurlitt, 21 April 1959

Gerard Files: BArch, N 1826/46, fol. 1 ff. List Raphaël Gerard, 28 April 1944, item no. 62

Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], item no. 62

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130_(3), [May 1972]

BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130_(4), [May 1972]

BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130_(11), [April 1983]

BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130_(12), [April 1983]

BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130_(39), [n.d.]

BArch, N 1826 Bild-2130_(40), [n.d.]

Archives Nationales, Paris:

Cour de justice du département de la Seine, folder Z/6/478, no. 4554

Austrian National Library, Photographs Collection
no. 240.095 D*R.

Belvedere Research Center, Vienna
Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller Archive, no. 304

Musée du Louvre, Paris (Département des Peintures)
Hermann Voss Papers, period photographs

Further sources consulted (selected):

Roessler, Arthur. *Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller*. Vienna: Karl Graeser, n.d. [c. 1912].

Versteigerung von Gemälden, Aquarellen und Handzeichnungen aus dem Besitze des Herrn Charles Sedelmeyer, Paris, dem Nachlasse des Herrn Moritz Heim, Wien, nebst einigen Beiträgen aus Privatbesitz. Auct. cat., C. J. Wawra, Vienna, 15 Mai 1923.

Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller. Exh. cat., Hagenbund, Vienna, January–March 1930.

Nachlassversteigerung S[amuel] Wendlinger, Auct. cat., Auktionshaus für Altertümer Glückselig, 7 December 1933.

Bildende Kunst der Francisco-Josephinischen Epoche [Kaiser Franz Joseph-Ausstellung]. Exh. cat., Secession, Vienna, in collaboration with the Verein der Museumsfreunde in Wien, May–October 1935.

Exposition d'art Autrichien. Exh. cat., Musée du Jeu de Paume des Tuileries, Paris, May–June 1937.

Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller 1793–1865. Exh. cat., Galerie Welz, Salzburg, summer 1937.

Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller: Gedächtnisausstellung zum 150. Geburtstag. Exh. cat., Österreichische Galerie, Vienna, 1943.

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.

Unvergängliches Österreich. Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller und seine Zeit. Exh. cat., Villa Hügel, Essen, 3 June–18 September 1960.

Wien 1800–1850: Empire und Biedermeier. Exh. cat., Historisches Museum der Stadt Wien, Vienna, June–October 1969.

Buchbaum, Maria. *Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller 1793-1865*. Salzburg: Residenz, 1976.

Bürgersinn und Aufbegehren: Biedermeier und Vormärz in Wien 1815-1848. Exh. cat., Historisches Museum der Stadt Wien, Vienna, 1988.

Kunst des Biedermeier 1815–1835. Exh. cat., Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, Munich, 1988.

Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller. Exh. cat., Kunstforum Länderbank, Vienna, 1990.

Wiener Biedermeier: Malerei zwischen Wiener Kongreß und Revolution. Exh. cat., Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna, 1992.

Czeike, Felix, ed. *Historisches Lexikon Wien*. 5 vols. Vienna: Kremayr & Scheriau, 1992–1997.

Huemer, Christian. "Charles Sedelmeyer (1837–1925): Kunst und Spekulation am Kunstmarkt in Paris," pp. 4–19. In: *Belvedere*, no. 2/99.

Huemer, Christian. "Charles Sedelmeyer's Theatricality: Art and Speculation in Late 19th-Century Paris," pp. 109–124. In: *Artwork through the Market: The Past and the Present*. Bratislava: Slovak Academy of Sciences, 2004.

Aufgeklärt bürgerlich: Porträts von Gainsborough bis Waldmüller 1750–1840. Exh. cat., Belvedere, Vienna, 25 October 2006–18 February 2007.

Franz Rumpler 1848–1922. Exh. cat., Galerie výtvarného umění v Chebu, Cheb, 26 June–7 September 2008.

Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller. Exh. cat., Belvedere, Vienna, 9 June–11 October 2009.

Alinari Archives, Florence

Archives de Paris, Paris

Archives Nationales, Paris

Archives nationales du monde du travail, Roubaix

Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. (Germain Seligman Papers)

Assurances générales de Franc, Paris (Centre documentaire)

Base Joconde

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Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris (Bibliothèque numérique "Gallica")

Bildarchiv Foto Marburg (Bildindex)

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Bundesarchiv, Koblenz (Sonderauftrag Linz)

Bundesdenkmalamt, Vienna (Export files, c. 1919–1923)

Business records Hildebrand Gurlitt

Centre des archives économiques et financières, Savigny

Centre Pompidou, Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Paris (Fond Charpentier)

Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume

Database "Central Collecting Point München"

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Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek

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Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs

Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles

Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)

Institut national d'histoire de l'art (French sale catalogues)

Lootedart.com

Lost Art

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris

Musée des Arts décoratifs, Paris

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

National Archives, London (Image Library)

Petit Palais, Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris (Centre de documentation)
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés
Rheinisches Bildarchiv, Cologne
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague
Städel Museum, Frankfurt/Main
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")
Witt Library, London

Note:

This work is alternatively referred to in the literature as *Two Ladies; Two Sisters; and Lady and Girl*. The first known owners of this work were Grete Hartmann (1869–1946) and her husband, the scholar Dr. Ludo Hartmann (1865–1924). The work was sold in 1916 through the auction house Dorotheum, for the sum of 19,000 kronen.

The primary source for research on Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller is the extensive Waldmüller archive at the Belvedere Research Center in Vienna which contains individual files for all of the artist's known works. This archive is based on the voluminous materials collected by Bruno Grimschitz, the former director of the Belvedere and the author of two Waldmüller monographs. Grimschitz's files were used and expanded upon by Rupert Feuchtmüller during the course of the preparation of his 1996 comprehensive catalogue raisonné of Waldmüller's works.

The extant file on this painting contains Grimschitz's detailed description (suggesting that he viewed the painting in person), a period photograph (annotated in French on verso), and Grimschitz's handwritten notes recording the ownership of the work. Per Grimschitz, the painting was with Wendlinger (most likely of the family of Viennese art dealers) in 1921 and thereafter with Charles Sedelmeyer or J. Seligmann respectively, both art dealers in Paris. While this discrepancy remains unresolved, the overall evidence points to the origin of the work in France. Research to date suggests Charles Sedelmeyer as the more likely source.

Three period photographs of this work were discovered in the Papers of Hermann Voss, now held by the Musée du Louvre. Per annotation on verso, dated August 1944, Gurlitt had previously offered the painting to Voss, who then served as the director of the Sonderauftrag Linz.

Another period photograph was found in Gustav Rochlitz' (1889–1972) photo documentation at the Archives Nationales. To date, it has not been possible to verify if Gurlitt acquired the painting via Rochlitz.

This work 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). Two inventories of artworks with Gerard were found among Cornelius Gurlitt's papers, one dated 28 April 1944, the other dating from about September 1953. This work is respectively referred to herein as "Waldmüller: Les deux soeurs" (1944) and "Waldmüller: Zwei Schwestern Oel" (1953).

Interior shots of the family residence in Southern Germany, dating from 1972 et al., show the artwork on display.

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