



### Jean-Louis Forain

#### Portrait de femme (Portrait of a woman with hat, in profile), 1881

Oil on panel, 35 x 26.3 cm

on recto, lower left, signed "j.l. forain 1881"

on verso, upper right, inscribed in red: "D<sup>r</sup>. G."; printed label: "Vente du 24 au 28 Juin 1942/ Hall du Savoy, Nice (A.-M.) / Cabinet d'un Amateur Parisien / N<sup>o</sup>. 176 [handwritten] du Catalogue / Dirigée par M<sup>e</sup> J.-J. Terris, Commissaire-Preneur/ 3 Rue Provana, à Nice (A.-M.)/ 22 [handwritten] / avec le concours de M<sup>e</sup> Bussilet, Commissaire-Preneur à LYON/ assistés de M.E.MARTINI, expert d'Art Ancien et Moderne / Villa Bellevue, SAINT-LAURENT-DU-VAR (A.-M.)"; on same label, at left: "REPRODUIT AU CATALOGUE" and two red stamps; below, inscribed in white chalk: "35 x 26"

on frame, at right, inscribed in white chalk: "2409" [?]; lower centre, a fragment of a handwritten label: "22"; lower left, fragment of a newspaper clipping with the headline: "Dernières journées de la vente Dorville / 2 MILLIONS 200.000 FRANCS / pour 95 dessins et aquarelles / Constantin Guys"; upper left, inscribed in white chalk: "DG/ 9"; in blue: "...oir Elia [remainder illegible] in white chalk: DG/9[?]; fragments of paper at upper left

#### Provenance:

(...)

By latest 1933: Armand Dorville, Paris

Sale: *Vente aux enchères du cabinet d'un amateur parisien*. Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24–27 June 1942, no. 176, pl. XLVII

Léopold Dreyfus, Nice, acquired at the above sale

(...)

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

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

By descent to Cornelius Gurlitt, Munich/Salzburg

From 6 May 2014: Estate of Cornelius Gurlitt

**Exhibition:**

*Le Décor de la vie sous la III République (1870-1900)*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, April–July 1933. [no. 138, as *Femme de profil*]

**Bibliographical references:**

*Beaux-Arts: chronique des arts et de la curiosité*, pp. 14–16, vol. 79, no. 70, 20 June 1942.

*Vente aux enchères du cabinet d'un amateur parisien*, Auct. cat., Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24–27 June 1942. [lot 176, as *Portrait de jeune femme présentée de profil*, pl. XLVII]

**Primary sources:**

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers:

Gerard Files: BArch, N 1826/46, fol. 1 ff. List Raphaël Gerard, 28 April 1944, item no. 22

Ibid., fol. 5 ff. List of artworks with Raphaël Gerard, [c. September 1953], item no. 22

Photographs: BArch, N 1826 Bild-1821 [=12.1\_F12156], [n.d.]

Seizure Inventory [Sicherstellungsverzeichnis], 2012, no. SV (Part 2)/087

Hildebrand Gurlitt and Cornelius Gurlitt Papers – possible references:

Sales ledger 1937–?: 17 November 1943 (?) [no. 1822a VII]

23 December 1943 (?) [no. 1822a VII]

Archives départementales des Alpes-Maritimes:

185 J 101. Auctioneer Terris, Procès-verbal, Hall du Savoy, Nice, 24 June 1942

Archives Nationales, Paris:

Commissariat général aux questions juives, nos. AJ/38/1319 and AJ/38/3855, dossier 2272

Musée des Arts-Décoratifs, Paris:

Expositions UCAD 1932–1934, Salle VI (1880–1890), no. 309 bis

Notary Archive:

Last will and inheritance Armand Dorville, 2 May 1939, 21 May 1947 and 15 December 1947

**Further sources consulted:**

*Exposition Forain des peintures, eaux-forts, dessins*. Exh. cat., Galerie Bernheim Jeune, Paris, June–July 1906.

*Exposition Forain des peintures, eaux-forts, dessins*. Exh. cat., Galerie Bernheim Jeune, Paris, June–July 1909.

*Exposition des œuvres de J.-L.-Forain: panneaux décoratifs, peintures, dessins, lithographies, eaux-fortes*. Exh. cat., Musée des arts decoratifs, Paris, 6 January–15 February 1913.

Kunstler, Charles. *Forain*. Paris: Rieder, 1931.

Vaillat, Léandre. *En écoutant Forain*. Paris : Flammarion, 1931.

*Exposition Forain*. Exh. cat., Amigos del arte, Buenos Aires, 1933.  
*Exposition Forain*. Exh. cat., Galerie Raphael Gerard, Paris, November 1937.  
*Exposition Forain (1852–1931): retrospective*. Exh. cat., Palais de Tokio, 27 April–27 May 1945.  
*Forain*. Exh. cat., Cultural division of the French Embassy, New York, October 1950.  
*J.-L. Forain, peintre, dessinateur et graveur*. Exh. cat., Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, June–September, 1952.  
*Exhibit Twenty-One: Forain*. Exh. cat., Sterling and Francine Clark Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, March 1963.  
*Forain: oeuvres de 1875–1895*. Exh. cat., Galerie Philippe Reichenbach, Paris, 16–30 June 1965.  
Browse, Lillian. *Forain: The Painter 1852–1931*. London: Paul Elek, 1978.  
*Forain: œuvres*. Exh. cat., Musée Marmottan, Paris, 1978.  
Bory, Jean-Francois. *Forain*. Paris: H. Veyrier, 1979.  
*Jean-Louis Forain: 1852–1931*. Exh. cat., Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, Albi, June–September 1982.  
Fondation de l'Hermitage, ed. *Jean-Louis Forain: Les années impressionnistes et post-impressionnistes*. Lausanne: self-publ., 1995.  
*La Comédie parisienne - Jean-Louis Forain*. Exh. cat., Musée des Beaux Arts - Petit Palais, Paris March–June 2011.

Archives de Paris:

38 W 313. Ordonnances de restitution des biens spoliés (1945–1976)

Archives Nationales, Paris:

Archives Musée Nationaux, no. 20150044/61, 20150711/128

Commissariat général aux questions juives, nos. AJ/38/3933 dossier 818, AJ/38/5523 and AJ/38/6030

Bundesarchiv, Koblenz:

“Nizzalisten“, B323/314

Landesarchiv Berlin (Records of the Amt für Wiedergutmachung):

Dorville, nos. 9 WGA Au/312/59 and 9 WGA 1145/59

Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris:

CCCLXVI-37\_001

Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Paris:

Commission de récupération artistique, nos. 209SUP/62, 209SUP/406 and 209SUP/65, file 48.144.2123

Dossiers individuels déposés à l'Office des Biens et intérêts privés, no. 209SUP/619

National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NARA):

M1944, Roberts Commission, Looting: France: Personnel, Report of the Commission de Récupération, 27 August 1945

[www.fold3.com/image/273365527](http://www.fold3.com/image/273365527) and subsequent pages (29 November 2015)

Archives Départementales du Rhône  
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"  
Galerie Heinemann Online  
Getty Provenance Index, German Sales Catalogs  
Heidelberger Digitale Bibliothek (Auktionskataloge; Heidelberger Historische Bestände)  
Les Archives Municipales de Nice  
Lootedart.com  
Lost Art  
Musée d'Orsay, Paris (Documentation de la conservation)  
Répertoire des Biens Spoliés  
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague  
Verzeichnis national wertvoller Kunstwerke ("Reichsliste von 1938")  
Witt Library, London

**Note:**

The first known owner of this work was Maître Armand Dorville (1875–1941), an advocate at the Paris Court of Appeal, who served as senator of Tarn-et-Garonne and was also a writer and an amateur artist. Dorville descended from a prominent Jewish family; his father Léon Dorville (1850–1927) was the long-serving president of the Jewish charity Société la Bienfaisance Israélite.

Armand Dorville was the owner of an important collection of modern French works, which were kept at his residence in Paris, at 16, rue Séguier.

After the Nazi invasion of Paris, Dorville fled to the south of France, taking some of his artworks with him. He died in 1941 in Cubjac in the Dordogne. Remaining childless, Dorville appointed his brother, sisters and nieces as his legal successors. All of them were of Jewish faith, persecuted by anti-Semitic laws. Dorville's sister, Valentine Lion (c. 1881–1944), her twin daughters Denise Falk and Monique Tabet (1920–1944), and her infant granddaughter Marie France Tabet (1940–1944) were arrested in Rhône-Alpes region in South-Eastern France in mid-March 1944 and deported first to Drancy, and to Auschwitz-Birkenau thereafter. All were murdered.

Following the laws of the French Vichy Regime, the inheritance of Armand Dorville was put under administration. Amédée Croze was appointed as the preliminary administrator by the "Commissariat général aux Questions Juives". Dorville's collection was sold at a posthumous sale in mid-1942 at the Hall du Savoy in Nice, which was then still part of the demilitarized zone. Instead of furnishing the sale proceeds to the Vichy Regime, Croze subsequently secured the funds in two bank accounts.

In 1947, the sale proceeds of the 1942 auction were paid out of the two accounts (including interest) to the surviving heirs of Armand Dorville.

All property that Dorville had to leave behind in Paris was seized by the Nazis in December 1943.

In his last will, drawn up in 1939, Dorville bequeathed a part of his collection to several museums in France but mainly to the Musée des Arts-Décoratifs in Paris. One drawing from the 1942 sale (*Lionne accroupie* by Eugène Delacroix, now at the Musée de Louvre) is listed in the inventory of the Musées Nationaux Récupération (MNR no. REC 148).

According to the results of the 1942 sale in Nice, this Forain oil was acquired for the sum of 19,000 francs by Léopold Dreyfus, then residing in Nice, 26 rue Pastorelli. (The newspaper clipping on

verso of the frame quotes a hammer price of 20,000 francs.) Dreyfus, who was a known art dealer, fled from the occupation of Paris to Nice where he continued his dealings until his death in 1953. The painting does not feature on the lists Dreyfus submitted after the war for works looted from his house in Yonne. No artworks from his residence in Nice are among those claimed.

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. This particular work strongly supports this hypothesis.

In 1953, some of these works were shipped to Gurlitt in Dusseldorf, while others remained with Gerard until 1957 (at Gurlitt's cost). The inscription "22" on verso refers to two inventories of artworks with Gerard, one dated 28 April 1944, the other dating from about September 1953. This work is respectively referred to herein as "FORAIN: Portrait de femme" (1944) and "Forain, Frauenporträt, Oel" (1953).

The personal papers found in Cornelius Gurlitt's Salzburg home include a collection of about 2,400 photographs of artworks. Photograph no. 12.1\_F12156 is a reproduction of this work; inscribed on verso: "forain".

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](http://www.taskforce-kunstfund.de) as of 14 January 2016. That report was updated by the Gurlitt Provenance Research Project on 6 December 2018.

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