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Albertina: Restitution of Six Works by Romako Recommended

The Albertina Museum ought to restitute six works by Anton Romako. This is the recommendation issued by the Advisory Council on Art Restitution after its Tuesday meeting. As a consequence the works should be restituted to the heirs of Oskar Reichel. Two other cases are still under discussion, the Council stated.

The recommendations to restitute concern the following works: “Allegory of Hungaria on Horseback”, a water color “Italian Woman Mending Fishing Net” and four ink drawings (“Study of a Sailor”, “Study of a Steersman”, “Study of Figure of Sailor” and “Study of someone Reading, Reading Boy”).

Reichel was a physician in Vienna and considered to have been an important collector of Austrian art, particularly the works of Romako. As a Jew, Reichel was prosecuted by the Nazis and died in Vienna on May 7, 1943. The Albertina Museum bought four of the six works from art dealers in 1939 and 1940; it had been assigned the water color from a deposit run by the Federal Office for Historical Monuments in 1963. Finally, the “Study of Figure of Sailor” had been acquired in 1976 from a private collector.

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