

Unabhängige Kommission SKKG

Unabhängige Kommission der Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte
zur Klärung NS-verfolgungsbedingter Ansprüche

Zurich, September 27, 2024

Press Release

The Independent Commission SKKG opens its second proceedings to clarify the claims regarding the painting «Campagna» by Arnold Böcklin

The Independent Commission of the Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte (SKKG) for the clarification of Nazi persecution-related claims has opened proceedings on the painting “Campagna” by Arnold Böcklin. There is concrete evidence that this work previously belonged to the collection of Wilhelm Freund (1915-1963) from Vienna. Wilhelm Freund was persecuted as a Jew by the Nazi regime and fled Austria to England. The Independent Commission SKKG examines whether there was loss due to Nazi persecution and, if so, will develop a just and fair solution.

The work “Campagna”, which Arnold Böcklin painted in 1844, has been in the collection of the the Sammlung der Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte (SKKG) since 1998.

- With these proceedings, the Independent Commission SKKG is investigating whether the painting was seized as a result of Nazi persecution and whether there are any associated claims by legal successors of the former owner. This investigation is based on the research of the SKKG Provenance Research team and is being carried out in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Independent Commission SKKG dated April 24, 2023.
- In early 2023, the SKKG board appointed the Independent Commission SKKG. The Commission is tasked with clarifying whether any of the foundation's cultural goods were lost between 1933 and 1945 due to Nazi persecution and, if so, developing a just and fair solution. SKKG has pledged to recognize the decisions of the Independent Commission SKKG as binding and to implement them.
- The Independent Commission SKKG maintains its independence and impartiality in the clarification of Nazi persecution-related claims. It orients itself mainly on the Washington Conference Principles of 1998 and the «Best Practices for Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art 2024», the Terezin Declaration of 2009, the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums of 2004 and the Principles of the Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte (SKKG) in dealing with the loss of cultural goods due to Nazi persecution of January 10, 2023.

The decisions of the Independent Commission SKKG are published once the proceedings have been concluded. An obligation of confidentiality applies during the ongoing proceedings; therefore the Commission will maintain such confidentiality.

For more information, please contact

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Attachment: Photo of the painting “Campagna” by Arnold Böcklin

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Arnold Böcklin (1827–1901), **Campagna** (previous title: *Jurathal bei Oltingen/Jura-Landschaft bei Oltingen*), 1844, oil on paper on wood, dimensions: 21.5 x 56.5 cm, inv. no. 31468, Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte, Winterthur. Photo: SKKG 2021. The painting shows a landscape with sparse vegetation and ancient ruins. The signature "A. Böcklin 1844" is included at the lower right edge of the painting.

