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Albertina

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Provenance research

Provenance researcher

Mag.a Julia Eßl

In the Albertina, Maren Gröning carried out provenance research for the period 1938–1960 actively between 1998 and 2000 and as required between 2000 and 2009. During this time, 49 reports regarding 317 works were submitted to the Commission for Provenance Research. Of these, 163 objects were restituted, in addition to a collection of around 3,500 posters (as at October 2009) and the restitution of a further 34 objects was recommended by the Advisory Board pursuant to the Art Restitution Law, Federal Law Gazette 1998/181.

Mag. Julia Eßl and Dr. Pia Schölnberger (until August 2017) have been working as provenance researchers at the Albertina since spring 2011, on behalf of the Commission for Provenance Research. Their task is to build on the research already carried out at an intensified level, by examining all objects which came into the collection between 1933 and the present for their origins and previous owners. In dubious or contentious cases, dossiers are compiled which are subsequently submitted to the Art Restitution Advisory Board, whose task is to advise the Federal Minister of Education, the Arts and Culture on a possible restitution.

Due to the extension of the period to be investigated, the provenance researchers of the Albertina will carry out investigations into the purchases from the German art trade between 1933 and 1938, into all purchases after 1960 and into acquisitions of the library, and a general object autopsy in order to look for indications of provenance on the originals as well as a systematic revision of the entire holdings of the works of Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt.