

Unabhängige Kommission SKKG

Independent Commission of the Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte
for Clarifying Claims Resulting from Nazi Persecution

Zurich, March 31, 2025

Press Release

The Unabhängige Kommission SKKG opens its third proceedings to clarify the claims regarding the painting “L’eroe morto” by Giovanni Segantini

The Independent Commission SKKG for the clarification of Nazi persecution-related claims (Unabhängige Kommission SKKG) has opened proceedings on a painting that is catalogued by the SKKG as “L’eroe morto”, 1879/80, by Giovanni Segantini (1858-1899). The painting has been part of the SKKG collection since 1993.

There is evidence that this work previously belonged to Sigmund Waldes (1877-1961) from Dresden. Sigmund Waldes was persecuted as a Jew by the Nazi regime. He fled Germany in September 1938 through various countries, eventually reaching the United States. The Unabhängige Kommission SKKG is examining the history of its previous ownership and whether loss due to Nazi persecution can be determined. It will subsequently develop a just and fair solution.

- With these proceedings, the Unabhängige Kommission 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 Unabhängige Kommission 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 Unabhängige Kommission SKKG as binding and to implement them.
- The Unabhängige Kommission 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 «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 Unabhängige Kommission 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.

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For more information, please contact

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Attachment: Photo of the painting

Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte, Winterthur, inv. 5738: Giovanni Segantini, **L'eroe morto** (also known as: *Der tote Held*, *Il prode* or *La capella ardente*), 1879/80, oil on canvas, dimensions: 65 × 40 cm. Photo: SKKG 2020.

