Provenance Research and the Independent Commission SKKG

Provenance research has high-level priority at the Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte (SKKG) [Foundation for Art, Culture and History], where it is integrated into the work of the Independent Commission for the Clarification of Nazi Persecution-Related Claims (July 2022 to December 2023). A team of seven researchers (Link zu “Independent Commission SKKG”), led by Carolin Lange and Thomas Schmutz, is carrying out a major project to examine up to 500 paintings. The Independent Commission SKKG’s work will assess how to deal with the results of the provenance research. The Independent Commission’s work is subject to the SKKG’s principles for dealing with cultural objects lost due to Nazi persecution, as well as its historical view of the past.

The team’s mandate means that it can only deal with the provenance of cultural goods that are subject to a claim, i.e., those still in the SKKG’s possession or recently returned, or which have been the object of a claim (e.g., through a lawsuit). The Independent Commission SKKG sees itself as providing a fair and just solution to instances of cultural goods lost due to Nazi persecution, as well as its procedural and historical consequences from this for the future.

For general questions about SKKG Provenance Research, please contact Severin Rüegg, Head of Collection, Attorney-at-Law (Link zu “Independent Commission SKKG”).

“By indexing the biographies of the objects and identifying possible cultural property lost due to persecution, the SKKG is creating added value for dealing with the works as well as for coming to terms with the history of the collection.”

Christoph Lichtin, Director of SKKG (Link zu “Independent Commission SKKG”)