

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (*24.11.1864 Albi, +9.9.1901 Saint-André-du-Bois)



Title	Au lit
Also known as	Im Bett In Bed
Date	1892
Medium	Gouache on cardboard
Dimensions	image: 53 x 34 cm
Signature	inscr. u. l.: HTLautrec
Inscription	-
Catalogue raisonné	Dortu P. 437
Edition / number	-
Edition	-
Inv. No.	BU 0184
Credit line	Emil Bührle Collection, on long term loan at Kunsthaus Zürich
Accession year	2021

Object type	painting
Classification	C 1[2] painting 19th century FRA

Description

Only half at home in the aristocracy and tormented throughout his life by painful physical ailments, Toulouse-Lautrec found a place of belonging in the 'demi-monde' (English: half-world), as the red-light milieu in France was sometimes called. He spent a lot of time, also on commissions, in brothels in Montmartre, where he observed and portrayed everyday life – or perhaps more appropriately, nightlife. During that time, he created just over 100 paintings.

'Au lit' is from this series. The painting is usually interpreted as a depiction of two women. Here Toulouse-Lautrec captured a moment of innocent intimacy without turning obscene or explicit: The two women lie facing each other in bed, a reddish glow, perhaps candlelight or morning light, illuminating their faces. Without touching, the two express loving affection and tenderness beyond sexual desire.

Provenance	The digitisation of the inventory of the Kunsthaus is an ongoing work in progress. Due to the time-consuming nature of comprehensive scientific research on each individual artwork, we have decided to disclose some works also without provenance information to the public. The progression of provenance research will be continuously updated online. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at provenanceresearch(at)kunsthaus.ch .
Provenance category	-
About the provenance	
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Die Sammlung Emil Bührle. Geschichte, Gesamtkatalog und 70 Meisterwerke, hrsg. vom Schweizerischen Institut für Kunstwissenschaft (SIK-ISEA), München: Hirmer, 2021, No. 231, S. 268 (ill.).- Sammlung Emil G. Bührle. Festschrift zu Ehren von Emil G. Bührle zur Eröffnung des Kunsthaus-Neubaus und Katalog der Sammlung Emil G. Bührle, hrsg. von Kunsthaus Zürich, Sammlungskatalog Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich, 1958, No. 204, S. 122.