

Joseph Christen (*Februar 1767 Buochs, +30.3.1838 Schloss Thorberg)



Title	Porträtbüste Salomon Gessner
Also known as	Portrait Bust Salomon Gessner
Date	1791
Medium	Plaster, tinted
Dimensions	object: 55.3 x 38 x 28.5 cm
Signature	-
Inscription	-
Catalogue raisonné	-
Edition / number	-
Edition	-
Inv. No.	2655
Credit line	Kunsthau Zürich, loan of the City of Zurich, 1918
Accession year	1818
Object type	sculpture
Classification	B 3[1] sculpture 16th to 19th century
Description	Salomon Gessner, famous poet and painter (1730-1788, see his portrait by Anton Graff, inv. 821). Christen met Salomon's son Conrad Gessner, the painter, in Rome, and after his return initially stayed in Zurich, where he found acceptance in the Gessner family and created a portrait medallion of his father, who had died shortly before. In 1791 he modelled the bust in his Lucerne studio after the numerous existing portraits of Gessner. Soon at least three copies were ordered and executed. After the Gessner monument on the Platzspitz was damaged (see Heinrich Werdmüller, inv. 170), a bronze cast of Christen's bust was placed in 1808 in place of the relief by Alexander Trippel.
Provenance	The digitisation of the inventory of the Kunsthau 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@kunsthau.ch.

Provenance category -

About the provenance (State of research 23.04.2025)

Literature

- Kunsthau Zürich. Gesamtkatalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft et al., Sammlungskatalog, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 140.
- Hans von Matt: Joseph Maria Christen. Sein Leben, sein Werk und seine Zeit (Quellen und Forschungen zur Kulturgeschichte von Luzern und der Innerschweiz 3), Luzern: Schilling, 1957, No. 29, S. 27, 49-51, 133.