

Mattia Preti, artist (*24.2.1613 Taverna (Kalabrien), +3.1.1699 Valletta (Malta))



Title	Orfeo nell'ade
Also known as	Orpheus und Eurydike vor Pluto und Proserpina in der Unterwelt Orpheus and Eurydice Before Pluto and Proserpina Orphée et Eurydice aux Enfers paraissant devant Pluton et Proserpine
Date	c. 1635/1640
Medium	Oil on canvas
Dimensions	image: 223 x 320 cm
Signature	-
Inscription	-
Catalogue raisonné	Spike 293
Edition / number	-
Edition	-
Inv. No.	642
Credit line	Kunsthau Zürich, Bequest of Alberto Rathgeb, 1898
Accession year	1898
Object type	painting
Classification	B 1[3] painting 16th to 18th century ITA, FRA and ESP
Description	A Stanzone signature dated 1636 from the 19th century was removed during Paul Pfister's extensive restoration in 2005. The myth of Orpheus in the Underworld is described in detail in Vergil's Georgica, IV, 453-527, and Ovid's Metamorphoses, X, 1-77. Orpheus performs before Pluto and Proserpina, asking them to free his wife Eurydice from the realm of the dead. Preti extends the composition, in which the judge of souls Rhadamanthus, the river god Acheron and the hell hound Cerberus appear, to include prominent inhabitants of the underworld: ferryman Charon, Sisyphus, Tythius, Tantalus, Ixion, also Dante and Virgil. It is a picture of the young Preti. The theme points to knowledge of contemporary Florentine culture and is closely linked to the beginnings of opera.
Provenance	Mattia Preti (*1613 Taverna (Kalabrien), +1699 Valletta) (Künstler/-in) Marchese Michelangelo Peralta (Sammler/-in) um 1763, Unbekannt, Mailand Verbleib unbekannt o.D. – 1898, Alberto Rathgeb (*1841 Schwamendingen, +1898 Bergamo) (Sammler/-in)

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

	ab 1898, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft Kunsthaus Zürich (Museum), Zürich, Vermächtnis
Provenance category	-
About the provenance	(State of research 01.01.2007)
Literature	- Die Meisterwerke, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft/Christian Klemm, Sammlungskatalog Kunsthaus Zürich, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 65 (ill.). - Kunsthaus Zürich. Gesamtkatalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft et al., Sammlungskatalog, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 120. - Giuseppe De Vito (Hrsg.): Apporti del Lanfranco alla cultura figurativa napoletana della metà del '600 (Ricerche sul '600 napoletano), Mailand: Edizione L & T, 1985, ill. No. 1-5, S. 7-59. - John T. Spike: Mattia Preti - Catalogo ragionato dei dipinti/Catalogue raisonné of the paintings, Firenze: Centro Di, 1999, No. 293. - Nicola Spinosa: La pittura napoletana del '600, Mailand: Longanesi, 1984, No. 556.