

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

Henri Matisse (*31.12.1869 Le Cateau-Cambrésis, +3.11.1954 Nizza)



Title	Branche de lierre
Also known as	Efeuzweig Branch of Ivy
Date	1915
Medium	Oil on canvas
Dimensions	image: 62 x 50.5 cm
Signature	inscr. b. l.: Henri Matisse
Inscription	-
Catalogue raisonné	Blondel/Ivanoff Matisse.239.16-021
Edition / number	-
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Inv. No.	2005/0030
Credit line	Kunsthaus Zürich, Bequest of Gustav Zumsteg, 2005
Accession year	2005
Object type	painting
Classification	D 1[2] art 20th century worldwide
Description	Matisse prepared the composition of the ivy branch in the Spanish glass water jug in a large drawing (see Guy-Patrice et Michel Dauberville: Matisse. Henri Matisse chez Bernheim-Jeune, Paris 1995, no. 163).
Provenance	Henri Matisse (*1869 Le Cateau-Cambrésis, +1954 Nizza) (Künstler/-in) [Verbleib unbekannt?] spätestens ab 1916 – 18.10.1940, Alphonse Kann (*1870 Wien, +1948 London) (Sammler/-in) 18.10.1940 – o.D., Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR), Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Beschlagnahme Verbleib unbekannt 7.1947 – 1948, Alphonse Kann (*1870 Wien, +1948 London) (Sammler/-in), Restitution

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Verbleib unbekannt

spätestens ab 1982 – 2005, Gustav Zumsteg (*1915 Zürich, +2005 Zürich) (Sammler/-in)
ab 2005, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft | Kunsthaus Zürich (Museum), Zürich, Vermächtnis

Provenance category

A – The provenance for the period from 1933 to 1945 can be reconstructed. This is not a case of Nazi-looted art.

About the provenance

The painting by Henri Matisse entered the Kunsthaus Zürich in 2005 as part of a bequest by the collector Gustav Zumsteg. Prior to that, it had spent many years in the collection of Alphonse Kann (1870–1948). Born in Vienna into a Jewish banking family, Kann grew up in Paris and became friendly with artists such as Maurice Denis, Paul Sérusier and Édouard Vuillard during his schooldays. Kann moved in artistic and art-collecting circles and began accumulating a collection of his own. He also supported a buyers' collective initiated in 1935 by the art dealer Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler (1884–1979) to provide financial support to artists.

The Matisse painting is documented as being in Kann's possession by 1916 at the latest. He presumably acquired it directly from the artist. Kann abandoned his residence in Paris in 1938 in response to rising antisemitism and fled to London, where he obtained British citizenship. The work was seized in October 1940 by the Reichsleiter Rosenberg Taskforce, an organization set up by the Nazi party to loot cultural property. It was recovered after the Second World War ended, and returned to Alphonse Kann in July 1947. (State of research 13.01.2022)

Literature

- Kunsthaus Zürich. Gesamtkatalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft et al., Sammlungskatalog, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 598.
- Henri Matisse, hrsg. von Felix Baumann, Ausst.-Kat. Kunsthaus Zürich/Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Zürich, 1982, No. 44 (ill.).
- Ryser, Sibylle/Zürcher, Isabel: Pays de rêve, die Kunst der Kronnenhalle Zürich, München: Prestel, 2019, S. 31.
- François Blondel/Hélène Ivanoff: Catalogue de l'œuvre peint de Henri Matisse. 1869-1954, Prévessin-Moëns: Visimuz, 2025, No. 16.021, S. 239 (ill.).