

Anton Graff, artist (*8.11.1736 Winterthur, +22.6.1813 Dresden)



Title	Bildnis Salomon Gessner
Also known as	Portrait of Salomon Gessner Portrait de Salomon Gessner
Date	1781/1782
Medium	Oil on canvas
Dimensions	image: 66 x 51 cm
Signature	-
Inscription	-
Catalogue raisonné	-
Edition / number	-
Edition	-
Inv. No.	821
Credit line	Kunsthau Zürich, Donated by Mr. Gessner-Heusser, Wädenswil, 1906
Accession year	1906
Object type	painting
Classification	B 1[1] painting 16th to 18th century CHE
Description	Graff began the portrait of Gessner in a smoking jacket and without a wig in Zurich in 1781 and showed it the following year in the exhibition of the Dresden Academy of Art. Several copies and reproduction engravings are known (performed by Ekhart Berckenhagen: Anton Graff. Life and Work (Berlin 1967), no. 453). Salomon Gessner (Zurich 1730-1788) was a poet, publisher, illustrator, alderman, landscape painter in gouache. His main poetic works, translated into the most important European languages during his lifetime, are the 'Idyls' (1756) and 'The Death of Abel' (1761). Gessner's letter 'on landscape painting' published in 1770 had a stimulating effect on Joseph Anton Koch, John Constable, Ludwig Richter, Gottfried Keller. In 1780 Gessner edited the first two issues of the '[Neue] Zürcher Zeitung'. Gessner met Klopstock and was strongly associated with Wieland; his friendship with Graff, who visited him in Zurich (Sihlwald) in 1781 and 1786, goes back to 1765/66, when Graff was a guest at Gessner's Haus zum Schwanen at Münsterergasse 9 and awaited his

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assignment to Dresden.

Two old copies after the painting are also in the Kunsthaus Zürich (inv. 427 and inv. 611).

Provenance	Anton Graff (*1736 Winterthur, +1813 Dresden) Salomon Gessner (*1730 Zürich, +1788 Zürich) 1872, Sammlung Gessner (Sammler/-in), Schanzenberg, Nachlass Emil Gessner-Heusser (*1848, +1917) (Sammler/-in), Wädenswil, Nachlass ab 1906, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft Kunsthaus Zürich (Museum), Zürich, Geschenk
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. 90 (ill.). - Kunsthaus Zürich. Gesamtkatalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft et al., Sammlungskatalog, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 58. - Ekhart Berckenhagen: Anton Graff. Leben und Werk, Berlin: Deutscher Verlag für Kunstwissenschaft, 1967, No. 453.