

Unbekannt [Tirol]



Title	Büste eines Bischofs
Also known as	Bust of a Bishop
Date	c. 1440/1450
Medium	Wood with exposed original polychromy
Dimensions	object: 47 x 30.5 x 15.5 cm
Signature	recto auf der rechten Seite der Figur oberhalb der Brust: Heinrich La [?]
Inscription	verso M. Etiketle: 568 [ms]; verso u. M. Etiketle: 12 [?] [ms]; auf der Unterseite der Figur KHZ-Etikette [ms und hs]
Catalogue raisonné	-
Edition / number	-
Edition	-
Inv. No.	1954/0029
Credit line	Kunsthhaus Zürich, 1954
Accession year	1954
Object type	sculpture
Classification	A 3[1] sculpture Middle Ages
Description	-
Provenance	Unbekannt [Tirol] (Künstler/-in) Verbleib unbekannt spätestens ab 1951 – 1954, Benno Griebert (*1909 Berlin-Lichterfelde, +2000) (Kunsthändler/-in), Meersburg ab 1954, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft Kunsthhaus Zürich (Museum), Zürich, Kauf, 8'000 CHF
Provenance category	C – The provenance from 1933 to 1945 has not been conclusively clarified; gaps in the ownership history remain. According to current research, there is no evidence of Nazi-looted art. There are, however, implications of Nazi-looted art and / or conspicuous

circumstances.

About the provenance

The bust of a bishop was purchased in 1954 from Benno Griebert of Meersburg, from whom it had been on loan at the Kunsthaus since 1951. The art historian and dealer Benno Griebert had made his name as a dealer in late-Gothic objects through the exhibition «Madonnas on Lake Constance» in 1950 at Schloss Meersburg. Prior to 1945, he had acted as advisor to an organization involved in seizing cultural property in the occupied areas. Essentially, it is difficult to identify medieval wooden figures and their previous owners if there is no information about the artist and the titles are broadly descriptive. No concrete indications that the figure was confiscated as a result of Nazi persecution have been found, but Griebert's involvement in Nazi looting gives grounds for suspicion. As the research currently stands, it is not possible to state conclusively whether the work constitutes Nazi-looted art. At present, all the known sources have been exhausted. (State of research 30.09.2024)

Literature

- Kunsthaus Zürich. Gesamtkatalog der Gemälde und Skulpturen, hrsg. von Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft et al., Sammlungskatalog, Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2007, S. 21.