



Press Release

The Advisory Commission recommends that Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf restitute the painting *Füchse* by Franz Marc to the heirs of Kurt and Else Grawi

26 March 2021

The Advisory Commission on the return of cultural property seized as a result of Nazi persecution, especially Jewish property, chaired by Prof. Hans-Jürgen Papier, decided on 10 February 2021 in the case of the heirs of Kurt and Else Grawi versus Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf to recommend that the painting *Füchse* [Foxes] by Franz Marc be restituted to the community of heirs of Kurt and Else Grawi. The case was decided by a majority of six votes (with three votes against).

The painting was owned by Kurt Grawi until at least February 1940. Grawi was a banker, broker and independent entrepreneur. Because of his Jewish origins, he was persecuted both individually and collectively. After the Kristallnacht pogrom, Grawi was imprisoned in Sachsenhausen concentration camp for several weeks. At the end of April 1939, he emigrated via Brussels to Santiago de Chile, where he joined relatives of his wife, Else, on 4 June 1939. Grawi was allowed to take 10 Reichsmark with him. He was reliant on assistance from friends for his onward journey from Brussels. In December 1939, Else Grawi and the couple's two sons emigrated via Italy to Chile, where they were reunited with Kurt Grawi.

A letter dated 30 April 1939, written by Kurt Grawi in Brussels shortly before he continued his onward journey to Chile, indicates that *Füchse* was located in Paris at that point awaiting onward shipment to New York, where it was to be sold "despite the unfavorable times". Grawi emphasized that, for himself and his family, "the result of the sale will provide the basis for our emigration".

The painting was sold to William and Charlotte Dieterle in New York between February and September 1940. It entered the holdings of the Städtische Kunstsammlung Düsseldorf in 1962 as a donation from Helmut Horten.

The Advisory Commission believes that the painting *Füchse* by Franz Marc should be restituted, even though the sale took place outside the National Socialist sphere of influence. The sale in 1940 in New York was the direct consequence of imprisonment in a concentration camp and subsequent emigration, and was so closely connected with National Socialist persecution that the location of the event becomes secondary in comparison.

The complete recommendation is available at beratende-kommission.de

Beratende Kommission
im Zusammenhang mit der Rückgabe
NS-verfolgungsbedingt entzogenen Kulturguts,
insbesondere aus jüdischem Besitz

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