

ECHO Article

Looted art Nazis in Darmstadt: Investigations almost completed

Mathildenhöhe – Next round of negotiations regarding the “Frühlingssturm” in prospect.

[picture]

“Frühlingssturm” by Ludwig von Hoffmann came to the municipal collections of Darmstadt as looted art. Negotiations with the heirs about the whereabouts of the painting at the museum Künstlerkolonie are ongoing.

At the end of July 2014, it became known that the painting “Frühlingssturm” by Ludwig von Hoffmann came to the Municipal Collections of Darmstadt as looted art. Now, the negotiations with the heirs are taken forward to the next stage.

DARMSTADT. “With whom it will be negotiated with is to be ultimately determined soon, rather within days than weeks,” says Sigrid Dreiseitel spokeswoman of the City of Darmstadt upon ECHO’S question about the state of progress of the negotiations regarding the painting “Frühlingssturm” by Ludwig von Hoffmann, one of the most famous paintings at the municipal museum Künstlerkolonie. Negotiations about the painting remaining in Darmstadt through purchase or a permanent loan are expected to follow.

As we reported earlier, last spring, the city had acknowledged that this painting is looted art, which was purchased by a to this date unknown Mr. Trapp from Baden-Baden – so the museum’s record – and came to the municipal collections in December 1941. Now, the heirs of the Jewish newspaper founder and entrepreneur Rudolf Mosse (1843-1920) claim the painting back represented by the Berlin law firm Raue LLP. It is only one of the many artworks from the Mosse collection listed on the Lost-Art database. There, the heirs are looking for 411 paintings, sculptures, graphics, and crafts, which belong to the Mosse estate, and were auctioned under duress at the Berlin Rudolph Lepke auction house upon the order of the Hitler-Government on May 29th and 30th.

“Since September, we have been working together with the German Center of cultural losses in Magdeburg, to be sure that no further heirs exist,” says Sigrid Dreiseitel. Now, it seems clear that the Mosse Foundation, which combines two strains of successors, represented by the law firm Raue LLP, are the sole entitled beneficiaries.