## THE LOST COLLECTION OF FRITZ GRÜNBAUM

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Egon Schiele Zwei Freundinnen, Liegend

Measures: 12 1/8 x 19 " ( 30.8 x 48.2 cm) Inventorynumber by Jane Kallir: 1288

## Description:

As per Jane Kallier: Egon Schiele, The Complete Works 1998, New York: №:1288

Two Friends, Reclining (Tenderness)

Zwei Freundinnen, liegend (Zärtlichkeit)

Watercolor and pencil. Signed and dated, lower center. (30.8 x 48.2 cm).

Comments: The paint handling is uncharacteristic.

Compare: D. 1289

As per Neue Galerie Nr. 324/84: (correspondence Grünbaum/Nirenstein)

2 Mädchen

aquar. Zeichnung blau, rot, schwarz Aqu. 1913 31 x 45 cm

## Provenance:

As per Jane Kallier: Egon Schiele, The Complete Works 1998, New York: Klipstein & Kornfeld, May 25, 1962, sale 108, lot 1041; Serge Sabarsky; Felix Landau; Kornfeld & Klipstein, May 29, 1964, sale 112, lot 1159

As per Archive Neue Galerie Nr. 324/84:

1928 in posession of Fritz Grünbaum

Ray Dowd of <u>Dunnington Bartholow & Miller LLP</u> is leading efforts to recover Fritz Grunbaum's stolen art collection on behalf of the heirs.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015, art dealer Richard Nagy attempted to sell two works from Fritz Grünbaum's collection at the Armory Art Fair in New York and was subsequently ordered by attorney Raymond Dowd to surrender the two works and return them to Fritz Grünbaum's heirs.

When he refused, a lawsuit was filed and the two artworks were frozen in New York.

On 11 June 2018, in a <u>first instance decision by Judge Charles E. Ramos</u>, a writ of replevin was issued against the art dealer Richard Nagy for wrongful

- deprivation of Possession and

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appropriation was granted.

In a <u>unanimous decision of the SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS, FIRST DEPARTMENT</u>, a five-judge panel affirmed the trial court's decision of 11 June 2018 in the Supreme Court District of New York, Hon. Charles E. Ramos.

Dunnington also negotiated the restitution and auction of Schiele's Town on the Blue River at Christie's in a very successful sale. The high auction price shows that doing the right thing pays off.

The Manhattan District Attorney's Office took up the case in December 2022 after a New York civil court ruled in 2018 that Fritz Grünbaum had not sold or returned any of his works before his death, meaning his heirs were the legitimate owners: <a href="several museums and collectors contacted by prosecutors agreed to return the Schiele works">several museums and collectors contacted by prosecutors agreed to return the Schiele works</a> to the heirs after being told they had stolen property.

The heirs of Fritz Grunbaum would be grateful for any information about the works of art stolen from Fritz Grunbaum while he was in Dachau concentration camp and would welcome any person of good faith who would come forward voluntarily to return these works of art. The heirs call upon art historians and experts in the museum community to have the courage to publish scholarly reports on the stolen items in museum collections and to call upon the governments of Austria and the United States to work towards the removal of these stolen artworks from museum collections.