

EMBARGO THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2023, 12 AM

**Evaluation of Bührle Collection provenance research:
Raphael Gross proposed as expert**
(media release, Felix Uhlmann, 2 March 2023)

At the end of August 2022, the City and Canton of Zurich and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft set up a Round Table to define the content of the mandate for an independent evaluation of the provenance research conducted to date into the Emil Bührle Collection, and to propose to the City and Canton of Zurich and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft an expert or team of experts to carry out that evaluation. The Round Table has now completed its work. It has precisely defined the matters to be considered within the mandate and proposed Prof. Raphael Gross as the expert. The City and Canton of Zurich and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft welcome these recommendations. They will communicate separately about the granting of the mandate, probably at the end of the month.

Prof. Raphael Gross is a historian and grew up in Zurich. He spent a number of years in the UK and held the post of Director of the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt am Main, and has been President of the Deutsches Historisches Museum Foundation since 2017. Prof. Gross has played a key role in many restitution proceedings. Since 2016 he has been a member of the German Advisory Commission on the return of cultural property seized as a result of Nazi persecution, especially Jewish property. This body was established in 2003 by the Federation, Länder and national associations of local authorities to mediate in case of disputes over the restitution of Nazi-confiscated cultural property. It works on the basis of the Washington Principles and follow-up declarations.

The results of the evaluation of the provenance research conducted to date into the Emil Bührle Collection are expected to be available in spring 2024. They will be communicated to the City and Canton of Zurich and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft as commissioning bodies, as well as to the Round Table and the general public. The report on the discussions conducted by the Round Table, meanwhile, is published today. It explains how the Round Table arrived at its recommendation regarding the mandate description and the choice of Prof. Raphael Gross, and describes the Round Table's working method and process. The summary minutes of its meetings are available for inspection.

For now, the Round Table's work is complete. It will take delivery of the results of the evaluation and assess whether the mandate has been fulfilled; it will not, however, conduct its own appraisal of its content. The Delegate of the City and Canton of Zurich and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft wishes to thank all members of the Round Table for their great dedication and constructive involvement, and also Prof. Raphael Gross for his willingness to take on the mandate.

The members of the Round Table are Valérie Arato (Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities), Tobia Bezzola (ICOM Switzerland), Konrad Bitterli (Association of Swiss Art

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Museums), Thomas Buomberger (IG Transparenz), Yves Fischer (Federal Office of Culture), Moritz Hany (Assistant Delegate), Tanja Hetzer (former member of the Independent Commission of Experts Switzerland – Second World War), Erich Keller, Markus Knauss (IG Transparenz), Jacques Lande (Israelitische Cultusgemeinde Zürich), Ralph Lewin (Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities), Tessa Rosebrock (Schweizerischer Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung), Esther Tisa Francini (Schweizerischer Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung), and Benno Widmer (Federal Office of Culture).

For information, please contact the Delegate, Felix Uhlmann, on +41 61 279 70 00.

- Annexes: - Report of 16 January 2023
- Media release of 20 September 2022
- Media release of 22 December 2022
- Photography of Prof. Dr. Raphael Gross