Report on the
47 alleged 'Hitlers'
from the
Schulze von Mertschinsky collection
auctioned by Thies Military Auctions,
Fredericksburg, USA, April 16, 2020

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by Jaap van den Born, Vincent Domergue and Bart FM Droog

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**Introduction**

On April 16, 2020, Thies Military Auctions, LLC\(^1\), the US division of the German auction house Andreas Thies\(^2\), organized an auction with numerous Nazi militaria and memorabilia. Among these were 47 paintings, drawings and sketches attributed to Hitler, all from the collection of Wolfgang Schulze von Mertschinsky.

Explicit reference to the seizure of fake Hitlers in Germany, 2019

The auction house remarked at every lot:

> “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly."

In 2019 the police in Berlin, Nuremberg and München seized 67 alleged Hitler paintings, drawings and sketches, after the police forces were alerted about the fraudulent nature of these works.\(^3\) After the seizures the trade in fake Hitlers in Germany came – for the time being? – to a standstill, as auctioneers and owners feared confiscation.

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1 Based in Fredericksburg, VA, USA.
2 Auktionshaus Andreas Thies eK. Steingaustrasse 18, 73230 Kirchheim unter Teck, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. [https://www.andreas-thies.de/](https://www.andreas-thies.de/)
Wolfgang Schulze von Mertschinsky

Wolfgang Schulze von Mertschinsky was an American/German 'antiques dealer', operating from the mid 1960's until circa 2000. He was the American agent of Konrad Kujau, the notorious German forger.

Little is known about Schulze, except that he had lived in Stuttgart (Germany), San Francisco and somewhere in Florida. He was active as a militaria trader from mid 1960’s until late 1990’s. As far as is known he was once interviewed, by Gitta Sereny of the Sunday Telegraph. She wrote:

“I established that unbound versions of Hitler diaries from Kujau were for sale in the united States early in 1976. Both his one-time lawyer in Stuttgart, Peter Stöckicht, and his ‘patron’, a German-born US citizen now living in Florida, Wolfgang Schulze, confirmed to me that they saw and handled them, and thought them authentic. Indeed, Schulze says that some of the diaries were sold, though he refuses to say to whom.”

The American militaria critical collector W.C. (Bill) Stumps exposed Schulze von Mertschinsky as a swindler. In 2003 Stumps remarked about Schulze, whom he called “Schulz Wolfgang von Merchenski”:

“I met this dealer years ago and he had a home in German and one here in the States. He had many fine original items and worked with "Dr." Peter Bauer [= Peter Breuer] super tailor who made most of the uniforms now in collections from his costume studio in Munich. They were two crooked old characters who laughed all the way to the bank as they deposited their profits from the suckers and fake mongers who sold their wares until they passed across the bar in the late 70's. I bet old Schultz will get a big chuckle when some sucker pays $40K or more in a few weeks for his post war "art work".”

Konrad Kujau

The German militaria dealer and forger Konrad Kujau (1938-2000) has became famous because of his fake Hitler diaries.

Faking diaries was only one of his forging activities: he produced numerous fake

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The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 3/77
Hitler paintings, drawings and sketches, as well as letters, documents and objects allegedly originating from Hitler or other high ranking Nazis.

The imitation Hitler texts handwritten by Kujau are very easy to recognize – he used much open space between the words, to give a text more volume. And in many cases he 'enriched' drawings and sketches with these texts, making them easy recognizable as a Kujau fake.

The Hitler signatures made by Kujau are also easy recognizable. Many times he didn't bother to produce authentic looking ones.

"Nazi" documents originating from Kujau have many times brown stains, which he created by using tea, to make these document look old.

**Fake versus forgery**

Many of the 'Hitler' artworks produced by Kujau are pure fantasy products, as they are not imitations of existing authentic works. He simply produced whatever his customers would accept to believe. And these customers, blinded by their fascination for any alleged Hitler related object, accept almost everything with Hitler's name on it as authentic.
Hitler the artist?

Before and after the actual 'Hitlers' from the Schulze von Mertschinsky collection were auctioned, the following lots were offered. A map and several copies of the same book, fueling the myth that Hitler had been a real artist (he was not, in the sense that he was not a creative artist, but a mere copyist).

Lot 1412 – Adolf Hitler – Aquarelle – a map with reproductions of seven alleged Hitler artworks. Also known as the Hoffmann map, as it published by Hitler’s photographer, friend and partner in crime, Heinrich Hoffmann. This map is a forgery in itself, as at least six of the seven works are not made by Hitler.7

Lot 1413 – Adolf Hitler als Maler und Zeichner.
A book also known as the Workkatalog or Price – after the name of the financer, the American millionaire Billy F. Price. It is basically a catalog of the forgeries known in and before 1982.8

Lot 1414 – Adolf Hitler als Maler und Zeichner.
See 1413.

Lot 1482 – Adolf Hitler als Maler und Zeichner.
See 1413.

Lot 1483 – Adolf Hitler als Maler und Zeichner.
See 1413.

8 Recently, this book has been digitized. It can be downloaded for free at the Internet Archive: https://archive.org/details/1983BillyF.PriceAdolfHitlerAlsMalerUndZeichner
The 'Hitlers' at the Thies auction

Lot 1415 – “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketches of famous Prussian field marshals.”

The handwritten texts on these sketches are very likely written by Konrad Kujau, and then the sketches are made by him too.

Text by auctioneer: “Each sketch measures 5½” x 5½” and features Frederick the Great, GFM von Ludendorf, GFM vom Gneisenau, GFM von Wartenburg, etc.. Pencil sketches show NO rips or tears and Adolf Hitler signature to lower right hand corner along with the date “1908”. (...) This painting attributed to Adolf Hitler, is from the extensive collection of Mr. Schulze von Mertschinsky. Mr. Mertschinsky collected a great deal of Hitler paintings in his 40 years as an active collector. (...) There has been much controversy and confusion regarding
the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

Comment

The six drawings, texts and signatures are very likely made by Konrad Kujau.
Lot 1416 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketches of WW1 German soldiers.”

Signed “Adolf Hitler”, dated 1917. Formats given: “Two measure 6’’ x 10’’ and one measures 6’’ x 9½.”

“This painting attributed to Adolf Hitler, is from the extensive collection of Mr. Schulze von Mertschinsky.”

Comment

The identity of the maker of these three drawings, texts and signatures is unknown.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of
fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly."
Lot 1417 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketch of edge of town.”

Signed “Adolf Hitler”. Dated 1907. Format given 13” x 8”.

Not a Hitler. The signature looks very much like the 'Hitler'-signature by Kujau. The identity of the drawer is unknown.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1418 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketch of edge of castle ruins.”

Signed “A. Hitler”. Dated 1907. Format given 12" x 8".

Not a Hitler. The signature looks very much like the 'Hitler'-signature by Kujau. The identity of the drawer is unknown.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1419 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketch of edge of dilapidated farm house.”


Not a Hitler. The signature looks very much like the 'Hitler'-signatures by Kujau. The style of the drawing points also to Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of

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reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1420 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketch of city street.”

Signed “Adolf Hitler”. Dated 1908. Format given 5” x 4½”.

**NB:** According to the auctioneer is was dated “1907”

Not a Hitler. The signature looks very much like the 'Hitler'-signatures by Kujau. The style of the drawing points also to Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1421 “Adolf Hitler attributed watercolor of Church.”

Not signed. Not dated. Format given 8" x 10½". On the paper on which this work is attached this text is written:

![Signature Image]

It reads: “a/m lieben Freund Augustl / Dein Freund Adolf 12 September 1913.”

The person who made this watercolor and/or write this text was clearly not Adolf Hitler. Who made the water color is impossible to say; the text however looks like Kujau's handwriting. If it was indeed written by him, Kujau has made a silly mistake: Adolf Hitler and his youth friend August Kubizek lost contact in the Summer of 1908. It lasted until 1933 before the contact was restored.
The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1422 “Adolf Hitler attributed drawing of the picture window of the Berghof.”

Auctioneer: “Drawing features Adolf Hitler signature with dedication to the right of the drawing and is dated 1933. (...) Measures 11½” x 7”. Included with this lot is a “letter of authentication” from the main office of the NSDAP and a Hoffmann picture postcard of House Wachenfield.”

The text and signature are very likely made by Kujauf. The drawing probably too. The photo postcard is probably authentic, but hasn't much value.

[Image of the drawing and a photo postcard of the Berghof window]

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The “letter of authentication” belonging to 1422 – a typical Kujau forgery. The brown spots are the result of dripping tea on the paper.

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 18/77
The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as "attributed to Adolf Hitler" which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1423 “Adolf Hitler attributed drawing of House Wachenfeld.”

Auctioneer: “Drawing features Adolf Hitler signature to lower right hand corner with “1933” date. (...) Measure 10" x 8". Included with this lot is a “letter of authentication” from the main office of the NSDAP and a Hoffmann picture postcard of House Wachenfield.”
Handwriting, brown stains and signature all point to Kujau.

The combination of mixing an rather valueless period object (in this case a Hoffmann postcard) with the fake item(s) is a well known forger's trick.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1424 “Adolf Hitler attributed colored drawing of Bavarian countryside.”

Signed “Hitler Adolf”. Dated 1913. Format given 19” x 10”.

Identity drawer unknown. Signature very likely made by Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1425 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of Bavarian farm.”


Text on reverso: “…. bei Leonding”

Identity maker signature unknown. Identity painter unknown. Identity maker text on back side probably Kujau.
The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1426 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of medieval church.”

Text by auctioneer: “Pastel painting features medieval church and is matted on hard stock. Painting shows NO damage and measures 12" x 15". Lower right hand corner features Hitler signature and is dated 1913.”

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Painting and signature on it are very likely made by Kujau. Card is certainly written by Kujau.

Was sold with this card:

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1427 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of flowers.”

Text by auctioneer: “Watercolor and pencil image features flowers in flower bed Painting shows NO rips or tears and measures 13” x 20”. Lower right hand corner features Hitler signature and is dated 1908.”

Hitler made no still lifes.
Identity drawer unknown. Signature very likely Kujau’s.

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The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1428 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of the eagle's nest.”

Text by auctioneer: “Watercolor painting features the "Eagle's Nest" the Obersalzberg, Painting shows NO rips or tears and measures 15" x 10". Lower portion of painting features dedication and Hitler signature.”

Work was accompanied by a “letter of authenticity” allegedly from the NSDAP Reichsleitung, nicely browned with tea, a typical Kujau trick. This work and the handwritten text beneath it point to Kujau too.

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The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1429 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of the Berghoff.”

Text by auctioneer: “Watercolor painting features the Berghoff on the Obersalzberg with Nazi flag. Painting shows NO rips or tears and measures 13” x 10”. Lower portion of painting features dedication and Hitler Signature.”

Accompanied by the “NSDAP Reichsleitung” letter, known as a typical Kujau trick. Provenance, style, text and signature point to Kujau as well.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion

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regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1430 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil drawings.”

Text by auctioneer: “Lot consists of two pencil drawings of neoclassical buildings. Drawings show NO rips or tears and measure 21” x 16”. Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature.”

Signatures are utter fantasy. Identity of the maker(s) unknown.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1431 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of Bavarian countryside.”

Text by auctioneer: “Painting features lakeside Bavarian town with trees showing NO rips or tears and measures 18" x 14". Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature and date "1925".

Identity maker(s) of work and signature unknown. Possibly Kujau.

No authentic Hitler 'watercolors' or any other kind of painting are known from later than 1914. It's very strange that the auctioneer didn't mention if this work was a watercolor or an oil painting.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to
express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1432 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of German city with bridge.”

Text by auctioneer: “Painting features lakeside Bavarian town with trees showing NO rips or tears and measures 30” x 26”. Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature.”

Signed: “Adolf Hitler”, dated “1913”.

Adolf Hitler never signed his works with “Adolf Hitler”.

Identity painter unknown; signature possibly made by Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of...”

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fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1433 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketch of small country chapel.”

Text by auctioneer: “Pencil sketch features country chapel showing NO rips or tears and measures 9" x 10". Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature along with "1907".”

The signature and drawing are very likely Kujau’s.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of

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reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1434 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil sketch of farm.”

Text by auctioneer: “Pencil sketch features farm showing NO rips or tears and measures 8” x 12”. Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature along with "1907”.

The signature and drawing are very likely Kujau's.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1435 “Adolf Hitler attributed colored pencil drawing of town buildings.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed colored pencil drawing features town scene with buildings. Drawing shows NO rips or tears and measures 5 1/2" x 7" and features Adolf Hitler signature and date "1908" to lower right hand corner.”

This description is rather strange, as this work has twice “1936” on it – after the signature and on the reverse side. The handwritten text on the back is in the typical Kujau 'Hitler' handwriting style.

Drawing, signature and text are very likely made by Kujau.

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The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1436 “Adolf Hitler attributed framed painting of country landscape.”

Text by auctioneer: “Framed watercolor of country landscape shows NO rips or tears, no damage to frame and measures 10” x 7 1/2”. Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature along with “1912”.”

Painting, signature and text are very likely made by Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1437 “Adolf Hitler attributed pencil portrait of Geli Raubal.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed pencil portrait features image of Geli Raubal, Hitler’s half niece. Portrait shows NO rips or tears and measures 15” x 12”. Portrait features three line dedication to Geli Raubal from Adolf Hitler and is dated 1931, dedication also features "Adolf Hitler" signature. Includes small picture of Geli."
Drawing, signature and pencil text are very likely made by Kujau. Identity maker text in blue (ink?) unknown.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020  page 45/77
Lot 1438 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting grouping with Paula Hitler letter.”

Text by auctioneer: “Lot of three Adolf Hitler paintings with official stationary from Paula Hitler to a Dr. Hummel referencing three paintings she gave to him dated 8 June 1937. Letter is on official NSDAP stationary, with cut and taped NSDAP Reichsleitung letterhead featuring typed text to Dr. Hummel. The text references the three paintings dated 1920, 1922 and 1925 which her brother, Adolf Hitler, painted. Bottom of stationary features ink signed Paula Hitler signature and pencil note to bottom left with title and date of each painting. The three paintings consist of: 1. Watercolor of reclining buck measures 10" x 14" and includes the mounted hard stock matting. Lower right hand corner features "Adolf Hitler" signature and is dated 1920. Matting is also signed and dated 1920. Lower left side of matting features title "Reclining Roebuck in forest". 2. Watercolor of mountain landscape with lake measures 16" x 19" and includes the mounted hard stock matting. Lower right hand corner features "Adolf Hitler" signature and is dated 1922. Matting is also signed and dated 1922. Lower left side of matting features title "Mountain Landscape with Lake". 3. Oil painting of poppy flowers measures 10" x 11" and includes frame. Painting features signature "Adolf Hitler" to lower right hand corner and is dated 1927/1925?.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 46/77
The more signatures, the more authentic, Kujau must have thought. The watercolor appears to be made by Kujau.

The Hitler forgery industry, Droog Magazine, 2020 page 47/77
The watercolor appears to be Kujau's.
Hitler never signed with “Adolf Hitler”, he never made oil paintings; he never still lifes, he didn't 'paint' in the 1920's.

Painter unknown; signature probably Kujau's.
Fake letter allegedly written by Paula Hitler, Hitler's younger sister. The NSDAP-department involved with the tracing and registration of Hitler's artworks was nor the NSDAP Reichsleitung, but the NSDAP Hauptarchiv. The mentioned exhibition (Ausstellung) was never planned – it's a concoction made up by Kujau, or by somebody forging Kujau fakes.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion.

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 50/77
regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1439 “Adolf Hitler attributed colored pencil portrait of young woman.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed colored pencil portrait features portrait of young women. Portrait shows NO rips or tears and measures 9” x 12” and features Adolf Hitler signature and date "1920" to lower right hand corner.“

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020  page 52/77
Identity maker drawing and signature unknown, text on the back is very probably Kujau's.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: "There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as "attributed to Adolf Hitler" which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly."
Lot 1440 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of women.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed oil painting of women shows NO rips or tears and measures 15” x 12”. Painting features artist's signature above the right shoulder of the women: "Adolf Hitler" and "1923".

This painting, certainly not made by Hitler, raises three questions: who painted it, when was it painted and who was the depicted woman? The maker of the signature is also unknown.

Odd is the title given by the auctioneer: “Women”. It should be “Woman”.

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 54/77
The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1441 “Adolf Hitler attributed sketch of patroness Bavaria.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed sketch features reclining lion and Bavaria, patroness of the Bavarian state. Reverse shows unfinished sketch of church architecture. Sketch shows NO rips or tears and measures 11 1/2” x 12 1/2”. Painting features artist’s signature above the right shoulder of the women: "Adolf Hitler" and "1923".

The auctioneer’s description seems to be partially a description of #1440. The work is signed and dated “1907” (underneath the front legs of the lion). Drawing and signature probably Kujau’s.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to

The Hitler forgery industry, Droog Magazine, 2020 page 56/77
express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1442 “Adolf Hitler attributed painting of country landscape.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed watercolor of country landscape shows NO rips or tears and measures 13" x 19". Painting is mounted on hard stock. Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature along with “1920”. (...) Subject is wrong, signature is wrong, date is wrong. Watercolor and signature by unknown maker(s).

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

The Hitler forgery industry, Droog Magazine, 2020  page 58/77
Lot 1443 “Adolf Hitler attributed printed copy of painting.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed printed copy of town homes shows NO rips or tears and measures 11 1/2” x 13 1/2”. Lower right hand corner features "A. Hitler” signature along with unreadable date.

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020  page 59/77
As this work is described as a printed copy, one would assume this work would be quite familiar. But we never encountered it before.

One has to study the physical work to see if the signature – which is certainly not the signature Hitler used on his works – was printed as well, or was added later.

Painting and signature by unknown maker(s).

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Text by auctioneer: “Unframed watercolor of Leonding, Austria in 1730 shows NO rips or tears and measures 14" x 10". Lower right hand corner features "A. Hitler" signature along with "1912". Reverse features dedication with Hitler signature and is dated 1905.”

The date on the front is clearly “1905”.

This work is complete fantasy. The signature is probably Kujau’s, identity maker watercolor unknown.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as "attributed to Adolf Hitler" which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 61/77
Lot 1445 “Adolf Hitler attributed watercolor of castle in Leonding.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed watercolor of an old damaged castle in Leonding, Austria shows NO rips or tears and measures 12” x 9”. (…) This work is certainly not a watercolor, it is a drawing or sketch. It and the signature are very likely made by Konrad Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 62/77
Lot 1446 “Adolf Hitler attributed watercolor of church in Garching.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed watercolor of a back alley/church in Garching, Germany shows NO rips or tears and measures 12” x 9”. Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature along with "1917".

Wrong signature, wrong date.
Maker(s) unknown.

The Hitler forgery industry. Droog Magazine, 2020 page 63/77
The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1447. “Adolf Hitler attributed watercolor of church in Linz.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed watercolor of the church in Linz, Austria shows NO rips or tears and measures 12½” x 10½”. Lower right hand corner features Adolf Hitler signature along with "1908".

Watercolor, text and signature are very likely Kujau's.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of

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fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1448 “Adolf Hitler attributed watercolor of Steyr Landscape.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed watercolor of Steyr landscape (...) measures 13” x 8”. Lower right hand corner features "A. Hitler" signature along with "1907”. Reverse features pencil dedication “In den Bergen von Steyr” (In the mountains of Steyr).”

Work is signed with a fantasy signature and clearly dated “1904”. Hitler reached the age of 15 in that year.

Whoever made this work, it was certainly not Adolf Hitler. And probably also not Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1449 “Adolf Hitler attributed oil painting of landscape.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed oil landscape shows NO rips or tears to canvas and measures 26” x 18”. Lower right hand corner features ADOLF HITLER signature.”

Hitler made no oil paintings, and never signed with “Adolf Hitler”. Dated “1906”.

Signature unknown – possibly Kujau’s. Painter unknown, possibly Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler’s signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Lot 1450 “Adolf Hitler attributed watercolor of city scene.”

Text by auctioneer: “Unframed watercolor features city scene of stream and homes with NO rips or tears to paper. Watercolor measures 19” x 14”1/2 and features artist’s signature to lower right hand corner “Hitler Adolf” and “Munchen 1914”. Painting is mounted on matting showing some tears/rips and is dated 1937”.

Hitler never signed with “Hitler Adolf”. Painter and maker signature unknown, probably not Kujau.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion

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regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”
Lot 1451 “Adolf Hitler attributed oil painting of roses.”

Text by auctioneer: “Framed oil painting features bouquet of pink/red roses in vase with NO rips or tears to canvas. Painting measures 18" x 22" with frame and features artist's signature to bottom "A.Hitler" and "1912". Back of painting features dedication from Adolf Hitler to an acquaintance and is dated 12 February 1912. Included is a "letter of authenticity" from the main office of the NSDAP.” Provenance: Schultze von Mertschinsky.

On the photo no signature and no date are visible. 
Hitler made no still lifes and he made no oil paintings.
Identity painter unknown.

The auctionhouse stated too, at this lot: “There has been much controversy and confusion regarding the authenticity of Hitler paintings recently which has resulted in the confiscation of fake or dubious works offered as originals by the German police. We therefore do not wish to express an opinion on the paintings and drawings offered in this auction and sell them as “attributed to Adolf Hitler” which means that authorship cannot be guaranteed even if the
work of art bears an Adolf Hitler's signature. The collection includes a large variety of Hitler attributed works and some might well be originals. However due to the accuracy of reproductions, we cannot guarantee the authenticity and authorship of the pieces from the Mertschinsky - Collection offered at auction and have priced them as if they were reproductions. We invite all potential buyers to make up their own opinion and bid accordingly.”

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Resumé

The works are certainly not all made by Kujau. Most of the signatures and texts are very likely Kujau's. The real bad paintings and drawings are probably made by Kujau.

Whenever the drawer or painter is mentioned as 'unknown', the work is almost certainly not made by Kujau.

We can't give 100% certainty about who made the signatures, drawings, paintings or texts, as this can only be done by forensic experts – which we are not.

1415 – probably Kujau, drawings and signatures.
1416 – signature unknown, artist unknown.
1417 – signature probably Kujau, artist unknown.
1418 – signature probably Kujau, artist unknown.
1419 – signature and drawing probably Kujau.
1420 – signature and drawing probably Kujau.
1421 – handwritten text almost certainly Kujau.
1422 – handwritten text almost certainly Kujau.
1423 – handwritten text almost certainly Kujau, drawing probably Kujau.
1424 – handwritten text almost certainly Kujau, drawer unknown.
1425 – signature unknown, painter unknown, handwritten text probably Kujau.
1427 – signature probably Kujau, artist unknown.
1428 – signature and painting probably Kujau.
1429 – handwritten text and painting probably Kujau.
1430 – unknown.
1431 – unknown, possibly Kujau.
1432 – signature possibly Kujau, painter unknown.
1433 – signature and drawing probably Kujau.
1434 – signature and drawing probably Kujau.
1435 – signature, drawing and handwritten text probably Kujau.
1436 – signature, painting and handwritten text probably Kujau.
1437 – signature, drawing and handwritten text very probably Kujau, second handwritten text possibly by somebody else.
1438 – all three signatures probably Kujau, as well as two of the three works.
1439 – drawer and signature unknown, text on back very probably Kujau's.
1440 – painter unknown (very skilled!), signature unknown.
1441 – signature and drawing probably Kujau.
1442 – painter and signature unknown.
1443 – painter and signature unknown.
1444 – signature probably Kujau, painter unknown.
1445 – signature and drawing probably Kujau,
1446 – painter and signature unknown.
1447 – signature, drawing and text probably Kujau.
1448 – painter and signature unknown.
1449 – signature and painter unknown, possibly Kujau.
1450 – painter and signature unknown, probably not Kujau.
1451 – unknown.

To index.
Conclusion

None of the works from the Schulze von Mertschinsky collection is an authentic Hitler. Most works don't even resemble anything Hitler ever drew (including his 'watercolors') or sketched.

It is unknown if Konrad Kujau supplied all these works to Schulze. It is very possible that Schulze bought independent from Kujau some of these works, either directly from the forgers, from collectors or via auctions.

What this collection learns us about Kujau, is that he added sometimes 'Hitler' signatures and/or texts to works made by unknown artists. These artists might have been completely unaware that Kujau did so. But it is also possibly that some of them were commissioned by Kujau to make these works 'in the style of Hitler' – we will just never know.

Did Schulze von Mertschinsky knew all his 'Hitlers' were fakes? Probably so. Konrad Kujau was in 1985 convicted to four years imprisonment for his swindling practices. Schulze must have known by then that all material originating from Kujau was likely to be fake. But he must have known so the very moment he started to act as Kujau's agent, somewhere in the 1970's.

Did Thies know all the Hitlers from this collection were fakes? We warned Thies, the American auction house as well as the mother company in Germany, ten days before the auction, about the fraudulent nature of lots 1422, 1423 and 1429. Neither company did respond to us. Nor were these lots withdrawn.

What does this mean? Everyone can draw his or her own conclusions.

Comment by Andreas Thies

Before publication of this report, we asked the Thies company for comment. Andreas Thies replied:

“We have been fighting against fakes and forgery's for many years and unlike all other auction houses guarantee authenticity of our items in our conditions of business unless otherwise stated.

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10 E-mail by Bart FM Droog to Thies Auctions LLC Military Auctions, Fredericksburg (USA) and Auktionshaus Andreas Thies Nürtingen, Kirchheim unter Teck (Germany), 06-04-2020, 15:24 hrs CET. 

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I cannot see how we could have made our serious doubt and concern on authenticity of the Mertschinsky items more clear than with the comment we put with each lot. We did not feel that the attribution of certain works to Kujau is justified since this would oblige us to guarantee this attribution and the subject is certainly still open to research. My education as an art historian teaches me that scientific research and solid proof can never be replaced by the expression of an opinion only.

We picked up your remark though in a newsletter we sent out to all registered customers before that auction saying that indeed many of these works might be by Konrad Kujau and whatever they are certainly worth what we estimated them at. If nothing else they are very interesting to study Kujaus work.

We recently were the first auction house to describe Allach figures with post war Colour painting as such (Repainted) and changed the awareness for those almost overnight.

My publication on fake award documents of the higher grades of the Knights Cross (auction catalog 64) based on Frieda Thiersch’s and Gerdy Troost’s archive made these fakes disappear from the market almost instantly.

I therefore find the conclusion you express at the end of your article very misleading and ask you to alter it.

I am one of only very few truly knowledgeable experts on high end 3rd Reich items and my integrity and reputation is widely acknowledged.

I still have about 300 works from the Mertschinsky collection and would be happy to receive you to have you look at them. It would be very interesting to publish all these fakers activities in a book to protect future buyers.

Do you know Petra Cichos‘s book on the subject?

Also I have a „Hitler“ Watercolour from a private source in France which I think is original.

Lastly in my archive I have a number of drawings that are copies of
originals by Hitler done by art students during the 3rd Reich. They have some most interesting remarks on techniques written on the reverse.

Let’s join forces to stop these criminal activities so widely practiced in the world of arts and antiques and especially 3rd Reich collectibles.

I expect your feedback before your publication and hope you will not force me to pursue this legally. I can and will not tolerate anyone questioning my integrity.”

Writers' comment on Thies' comment

The warning in the newsletter Mr Thies writes about, did only reach the persons receiving that newsletter. On the online auction platforms nothing about the very probable Kujau connection was mentioned.

To index.

11 E-mail by Andreas Thies to Bart FM Droog, 16-06-2020, 12:16 hrs CET.