

Report on **Frank P. Garo**

Part of the report compiled for the Bavarian State Police on the alleged Hitler paintings and drawings auction by Auktionshaus Weidler, Nuremberg (Germany) Saturday February 9, 2019

Full report:

<http://www.droog-mag.nl/hitler/report-on-Hitler-Auktion-Weidler-09-02-2019.pdf>

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Frank P. Garo

Certificates of authenticity ('coa', or 'Gutachten') issued by Frank P. Garo to alleged Hitler paintings have emerged at recent 'Hitler' auctions in Germany and the United States. The common feature all the Hitlers with a Garo-coa have in common is that all are easily identified as forgeries.

Mr. Garo works in this way: he is sent a photo of an alleged Hitler painting. After he's paid 40 to 45 dollars, he issues a certificate. Garo has no skills whatsoever in judging the authenticity of signatures on paintings. He knows as good as nothing about what kind of works Hitler really made.

In an interview with the American newspaper *Tallahassee Democrat*, Garo declared: "He [Hitler] did a lot of still lifes, and he did some portraits," Garo said of the subjects shown in Hitler's art."A lot of pastel scenes, flowers, things like that. He also did a lot of country scenes, showing things like the woods, or a farmhouse in the background."

He too said that for about the last 25 years he has worked to verify artwork, much of which has historical significance and has analyzed in his estimation "about 700 Hitler drawings."¹

'Hitler drawings', not *alleged* Hitler drawings - signifying he has issued certificates to all the drawings. Which is rather amazing - as even in the fraudulent *Werkkatalog* (Price's book) no more than some 300 alleged Hitler drawings are depicted.

Garo gave this interview in February 2018 after he was already exposed as a swindler.

In December 2017 we had tested him out. Jaap van den Born sent Garo a photo of an Hitler painting forged by Van den Borm himself. It was a very clumsy forgery, with a few hints that should have alerted any real expert on its dubious nature.

Yet, after Garo was paid 40 US dollars, he issued a certificate of authenticity to this fictitious 'painting'.

¹ Ryan Dailey. Tallahassee auction will sell what could be some of Hitler's early sketches. *Tallahassee Democrat*, 09-02-2018.

<http://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/2018/02/09/tallahassee-auction-sell-what-could-some-hitlers-early-sketches/308012002/>

This is how Van den Born produced a fake Hitler that fooled Garo into issuing a certificate of authenticity.



He looked on the internet for an image of a poorly painted sight on Vienna, which might date from 1910, and was made in a style that is completely different from anything Hitler ever painted. He found the image presented here on the left.² Then Van den Born printed it



On the print Van den Born wrote with a 21st century felt pen 'A. Hitler'. He didn't even try to make it look like an authentic Hitler signature. Any bona fide handwriting expert would have noticed it was written by a modern felt pen: the letters end in a straight edge, not growing smaller at the end as happens with a pencil, pen or pinsel.



He placed the print in an authentic old frame and scanned it.

NB: the colors on the image left differ from the colors on the first image. These changes are caused by the printing and scanning processes.



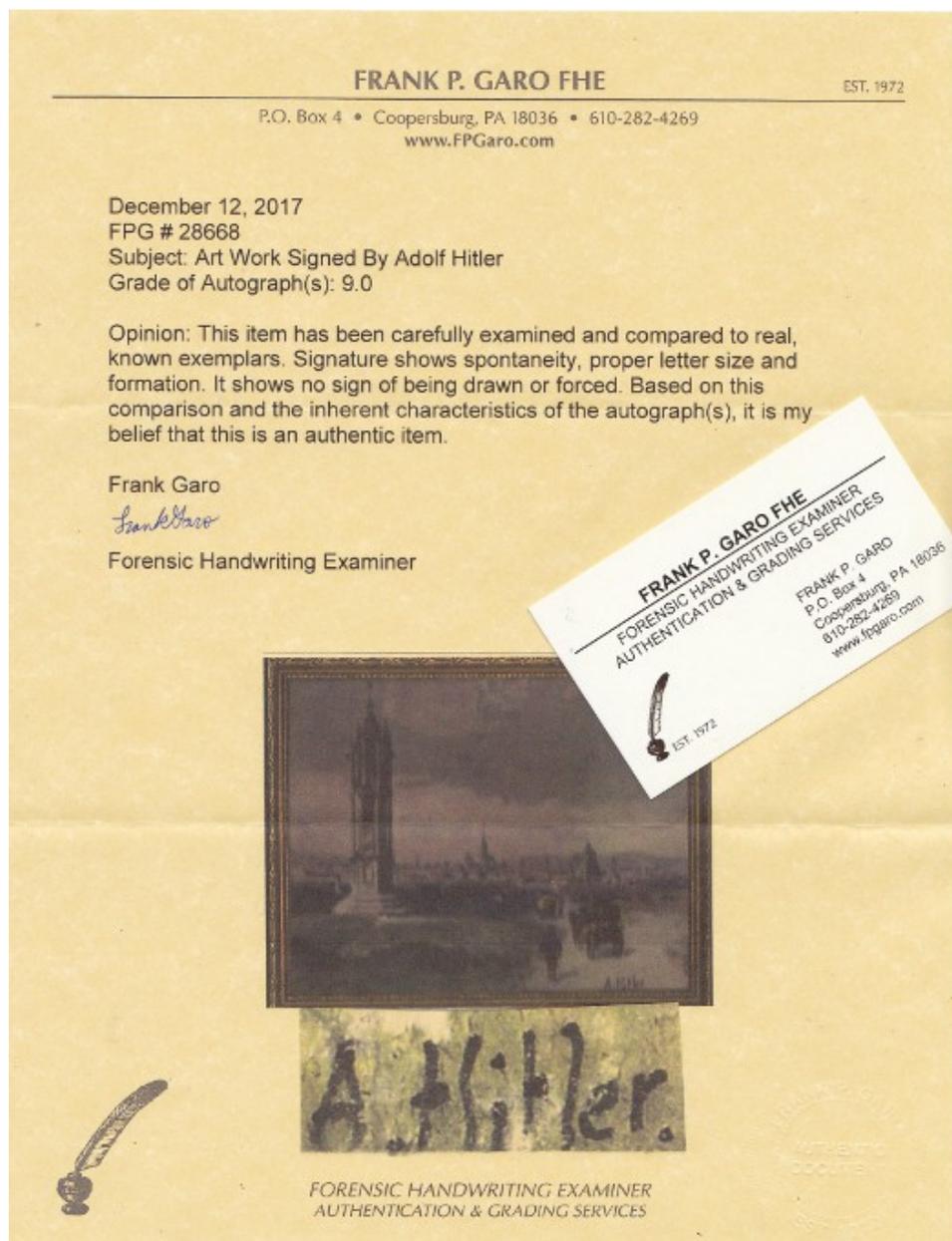
On the back side Van den Born glued two pieces of paper, which hinted on the fake nature of this contraption: one with a badly forged stamp print with the letters 'HBH', and the other a 'Reklam mark'.

These two papers would make any Hitler expert extremely suspicious, as they would lead to identified Hitler forgeries.

He scanned the back side too, and sent scans with a high resolution to Mr. Garo.

² Source: <https://www.ebay.at/itm/52044946-Wien-Favoriten-/372579575886?hash=item56bf79284e>

And then Garo send this Certificate of Authenticity, belonging to a painting that didn't even exist (as Van den Born only made a print), and that he never physically examined. As a 'handwriting expert' he only gives a standard printed 'opinion' about the signature and says and knows nothing about the picture or its provenance and this makes (apart from the signature swindle), as any art expert and decent auctioneer knows, his CoA totally worthless: **For if the provenance can't be traced, without time gaps, to Hitler himself, every alleged Hitler painting is by definition *not* to be considered as authentic.**



Frank P. Garo can be located easily:
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