



ABOUT PROVENANCE RESEARCH

Provenance research has been a hot authentication method for a few decades. It became popular because in addition to showing that an artwork is authentic it also at the same time demonstrated that its ownership is legitimate, that it was not stolen, looted or acquired in some shady way.

The fashion for Provenance research has resulted in many people being under the impression that it is the only way to authenticate. It is not. The best documented and most complete provenance is still only one of many authentication options.

For provenance to rise to the level of absolute proof of authenticity it has to be uninterrupted and documented for every change of ownership. While it may look easier to reconstruct the provenance of an artwork created 75 years ago rather than 500 years ago, it is not always the case. Collections in

the past would sometimes remain in the same family, church or monastery, for several centuries and constitute a solid provenance in the process.

Complete absence of provenance does not mean at all that an artwork is not authentic. It only means that its authenticity has to be demonstrated by other means.

Provenance research requires looking in libraries, archives, public records, accounting ledgers, collection inventories, all sorts of publications and in photographs too.

If you need provenance research or decide to authenticate a painting from the provenance angle, we have dedicated specialists with decades of provenance research experience.

Let us know what you need.