

**Report on the content of the Museum Ludwig
archives,
concerning the painting
Nature Morte/ Still Life
(1906-1912/1928)
by Mikhail Larionov**

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Report editors: Jilleen Nadolny and Petra Mandt
Location and date of the report: Museum Ludwig, Cologne, February 2017

1. Provenance

There are a few notes on the painting's provenance which are listed in the archive of the Museum Ludwig (comp. table 1). It is documented that *Nature Morte/ Still Life* was part of collection by Gallery Schwarz in Milan. However, it is not recorded when this gallery acquired this artwork. It is possible that it was bought after the exhibition "Larionov – Gontcharova" (15 - 28. February 1961) organised by this gallery.

In the exhibition catalogue related to the exhibition "Origini dell' astrattismo verso altri orizzonti del reale" and published in 1979, *Nature Morte/ Still Life* is said to belong to a private collection in Milan (Ballo 1979).¹ There is no information listed when the painting was acquired by the Gallery Gmurzynska, which was located in Cologne that time². The painting *Nature Morte/ Still Life* was part of the gallery's collection until 1990. The painting was acquired by Peter and Irene Ludwig (Ludwig collection in Aachen) in that year. A delivery note and an invoice (dated 11.1.1990) verify the acquisition. In December 2011 it was donated as artistic legacy to the Museum Ludwig in Cologne after Irene Ludwig's death in 2010 (28th November 2010).

table 1: listing of the painting's provenance.

undated	Milan, Gallery Schwarz (Galleria Schwarz)
until 1990	Cologne, Gallery Gmurzynska (Galerie Gmurzynska)
since 1990	Aachen, collection Ludwig (collection of Peter and Irene Ludwig) 1990-2011: loan to the Museum Ludwig in Cologne
since 20.12.2011	Donation/ artistic legacy to the Museum Ludwig, Cologne

References in general for the painting's exhibition history and bibliography, see:

<https://www.kulturelles-erbe-koeln.de/documents/obj/05021029>

¹ *Origini dell'astrattismo verso altri orizzonti del reale* [exhibition catalogue, 18 October 1979 to 18 January 1980, Milan], Ballo, G. (ed.), Milan: Silvana (1979), photo no. 419.

² Founded in 1965 in Cologne, Germany Gallery Gmurzynska is now located in Switzerland.

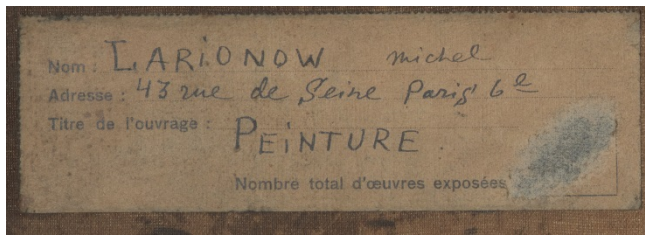


Plate 1. Mikhail Larionov: Still Life, c. 1907/1912, collection Museum Ludwig: Inv. Nr. ML 1487. Verso, visible light.

Rheinisches Bildarchiv Köln, Patrick Schwarz, rba_d050878_02, www.kulturelles-erbe-koeln.de/documents/obj/05021029

The inscription M LARIONOV on the reverse of the canvas is probably done by the artist.

Detailed information concerning the canvas stamp: see both the conservation and analytical report.

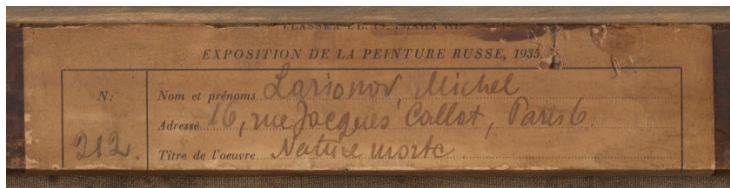


Nom: LARIONOW Michel
 Adresse: 43 rue de Seine Paris 6^e³
 Titre de l'ouvrage: PEINTURE'



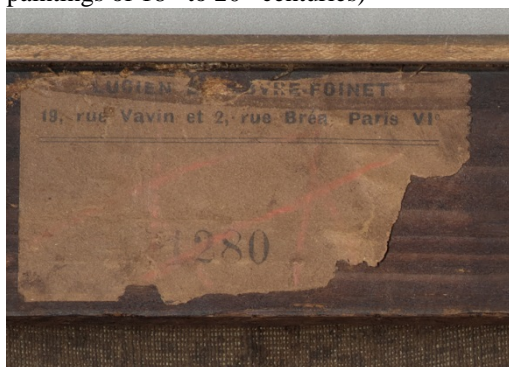
'Exposition de l'Art Moderne Français à
 Moscou
 Organisée par l'académie des sciences
 des arts à Moscou'
 Mai-Juni 1928
 Michel Larionow'
 Nature morte
 '16, rue Jacques-Callot', France

Vystavka sovremennogo frantsuzskogo iskusstva. Kat. Gos Musei novogo zapadnogo iskusstva i Gos. Tre'yakovskaya gallerya, 1 May – 31 June 1928.⁴



'VLASSKA [] 19. PRAHA III
 EXPOSITION DE LA PEINTURE
 RUSSE, 1935.
 N. 212.
 Nom et prénoms: Larionov, Michel
 Adresse: 16, rue Jacques-Callot
 Titre de l'oeuvre: Nature morte'

'Vystavy Slovanského Umění I: Retrospektivní Ruského Malířství XVIII-XX. Stol. Katalog, Slovanský Ústav v Praze, Prague 1935. Pořádané pod Protektoratem Hlavního Města Prahy (Catalogue of the retrospective exhibition of Russian paintings of 18th to 20th centuries)



LUCIEN LEFEBVRE-FOINET / 19, rue
 Vavin et 2, rue Bréa, PARIS VI^e / No.
 1280

³ Since 1919 Larionow lived in Paris in a small apartment, located in the street: 43, rue de Seine Paris (16, rue Jacques-Callot). Source: Mikhail Fedorovich Larionov, Solina de Vigneral, Michel Hoog: *Michel Larionov. Une Avant-garde explosive*, Lausanne 1978, p. 164.

⁴ Anthony Parton: „Mikhail Larionov and the Russian Avant-Garde“; Princeton University Press, 1993; page: 244.



LUCIEN LEFEBVRE-FOINET / 19, rue Vavin et 2, rue Bréa, PARIS VI^e / COULEURS ET TOILES FINES', No. 6433

Lefebvre-Foinet was not only manufacturer and dealer of artists' material but also shipping company. The name and notation LUCIEN LEFEBVRE-FOINET written with two addresses (19, rue Vavin et 2, rue Bréa) was used by this supplier between 1935 and 1939.⁵

2. Art historical information: a few notes

There are different notes on the dating of the painting *Still Life/ Nature Morte*. The exhibition catalogue "Larionov – Gontcharova" (Galleria Schwarz, Mailand) in 1961 listed the painting with the date 1906.⁶ In addition, in the letter of the delivery note and invoice related to the acquisition *Nature Morte/ Still Life* is dated that year. In the exhibition catalogue "Origni dell' astrattismo verso altri orizzonti del reale" the date of *Nature Morte/ Still Life* is given as 1905-06 (Ballo 1979).⁷ In the book "Kunst des 20. Jahrhunderts. Museum Ludwig Köln" and in the exhibition catalogue "Von Malewitsch bis Kabakov: Russische Avantgarde im 20. Jahrhundert. Die Sammlung Ludwig" *Nature Morte/ Still Life* is dated to 1907-12 (Scheps, Hermann, Schilling et al.: 407 and 408; Weiss 1993: 144)⁸. They pointed out the partly sketchy character of the canvas and motifs which can be found in paintings of 1910 onwards. In contrast, Anthony Parton dated the same painting to c.1927, referring to the exhibition in Moscow 1928: "...it suggests that Larionov still found inspiration in the imaginary of his neo-primitive period. It has none of the immediacy and power of the early works ..." (Parton 1993: xvi and 200-203).⁹

Two paintings by M. Larionov in the collection of the State Tretyakov Gallery, No. 907 *Still-Life with a Napkin* ;(Inv.No.Ж 1672) and No.909: *Still-Life with Branches and drawings* (Inv.No. Ж 2032.) show great similarities regarding style, colouring and format. They are also both dated round 1928.¹⁰

⁵ For detailed information see investigation report.

⁶ *Larionov – Gontcharova* [exhibition catalogue, 15 February to 28 February 1961, Galleria Schwarz, Milan], Apollinaire, G. and Seuphor, M. (ed.?) Milan: Gaiani (1961), unpagged (with photo).

⁷ *Origni dell'astrattismo verso altri orizzonti del reale* [exhibition catalogue, 18 October 1979 to 18 January 1980, Milan], Ballo, G. (ed.), Milan: Silvana (1979), photo no. 419.

⁸ Scheps, M., Hermann, B., Schilling, C. et al. *Kunst des 20. Jahrhunderts. Museum Ludwig Köln*. Cologne et al.: Taschen (1996), pp. 407/ 408.

Von Malewitsch bis Kabakov: Russische Avantgarde im 20. Jahrhundert. Die Sammlung Ludwig [exhibition catalogue, 16 October 1993 to 2 January 1994, Josef-Haubrich- Kunsthalle], Weiss, E. (ed.), Munich: Prestel (1993), p. 144.

⁹ Parton, A. *Mikhail Larionov and the Russian Avant-Garde*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (1993), pp. xvi, 203.

¹⁰ State Tretyakov Gallery, Catalogue of the collection, Painting of the first Half of the 20 th Century. Volume 6 Book two, Letters K,L. Moscow 2017. No. 907 Still- Life with a Napkin ; signed Inv.No.Ж 1672 No.909: Still-Life with Branches and drawings Inv.No. Ж 2032., page 281/282.