

## Press Release

# HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION SIXTH PRESENTATION

Since November last year the Collection Oskar Reinhart 'Am Römerholz' has been showing works of art from its permanent inventory that, despite their unquestionable quality, have not been on show to the public for a considerable time. The reasons for this absence are partly of a conservational nature and partly due to the limited available space. This separate individual presentation allows members of the public to take their time to contemplate these otherwise hidden gems. Accompanied by additional events such as discussions and special guided tours, these artworks will be explained and discussed from all perspectives. Representatives of many different professions will be invited, allowing the discourse to extend far beyond the usual core area of expertise in art history.

The last presentation in the series on 'Hidden Treasures from the Collection' revolves around the prestigious portrait of *Captain François Laurent Lange*, c. 1830–48. For many years, the painting was attributed to famous French painter Théodore Géricault (1791–1824), yet its authorship was time and again questioned. Details of the military uniform shown, as well as the surviving inscription on the back of the canvas, which reads 'Capitaine au 33<sup>e</sup> d'Infanterie, né à Senlis (Oise), en 1786, le 21 7<sup>bre</sup>', date the piece to shortly after Géricault's death. The strong-willed countenance of the elderly infantry officer is illuminated unsparingly in front of a dark background painted in broad brush strokes. The intense play of light and shadow, as well as the noticeably strong color contrasts emphasize this imposing figure's unwavering steel. The captain does not flinch in looking the viewer straight in the eye from a slightly elevated standpoint, and as a symbol of a man striving for power has clenched his right hand to form a fist. Both this psychologizing description, as well as the dynamic handling of the paint, which is very pasty in some places, attest to the artist's masterful skills – he or she may have belonged to Géricault's circle.

Exhibition duration: March 8 – June 3, 2018

Opening: Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 6.30 p.m. with Verena Schmid, Research Associate of the Collection



French Master, *Captain François Laurent Lange*, c. 1830–48  
Oil on canvas, 65 x 54 cm  
Oskar Reinhart Collection 'Am Römerholz', Winterthur



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