

# JACKY STRENZ

Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 2 60311 FRANKFURT am MAIN

## WILHELM VON KAULBACH

W. v. Kaulbach's Nachlass.

July 4 - August 29, 2015

„Aus W. v. Kaulbach's Nachlass“ (From W. v. Kaulbach Estate) read the text of the estate stamp and likewise the title of this exhibition. In total 11 sketches on transparent paper from the period of 1833 – 1850 are shown. Sketches of his best-known paintings and frescos such as preliminary versions of the oil painting “An artist festival, on the occasion of crowning a statue of Ludwig I.” or the sketch of the monumental painting “King Maximilian II. as Hubertus-Knight”, both Neue Pinakothek München. Also exhibited are preliminary versions of the monumental fresco “The tower of Babel” in the staircase of the Neues Museum, Berlin (lost).

In researches two drawings have ascribed to illustrations of works by Goethe and Schiller: One sketch to the illustration of the ballad “The bride of Corinth” by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe – the sketch of the interior painting for the bedroom of the Bavarian queen at the residence in Munich – and a sketch of Kaulbach's well known early work “The Criminal of Lost Honour“ by Friedrich Schiller.

A particular appeal of the drawing is based on Kaulbach's vigorous drawing style and inventive ideas of his sketches. Furthermore the drawings provide an inside into his working process: On some of the sketches wax spots are preserved, to stick the cuttings on the wall or easel – some kind of Scotch Tape of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; cutting out, tearing out or using the face and reverse of the paper alike. Some drawings show different sketches on one and the same sheet of paper. All works are single-handed by Kaulbach, some are signed with initials most of them are marked with the estate stamp.

Placed at the gallery specialized literature gives the visitor an opportunity to compare sketches and works.

---

Wilhelm von Kaulbach (1805 – 1874) belongs to the „Malerfürsten“ (Master Painters) of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He is famous for his history paintings and illustrations of literature.

On behalf of King Ludwig I. of Bavaria – since 1837 Kaulbach was nominated to Count Painter – he glorifies blossoming contemporary culture on frescos for the Neue Pinakothek and oil paintings. On behalf of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. of Prussia he decorates the halls of Neues Museums in Berlin with series of world history paintings (destroyed World War 2.). Kaulbach's fame and popularity is also based on his illustrations of works by Johann Wolfgang von Goethes and Friedrich Schiller.