



## Press Release

### **The Advisory Commission recommends that the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg restitute the painting *Geschwister***

02 February 2021

The Advisory Commission on the return of cultural property seized as a result of Nazi persecution, especially Jewish property, chaired by Prof. Hans-Jürgen Papier, decided unanimously on 10 December 2020 in the case of the heirs of Max Fischer versus Land Baden-Württemberg, to recommend that the painting *Geschwister* [Siblings] by Erich Heckel be restituted to the heirs of Max Fischer.

The painting was owned by Max Fischer until January 1934. Fischer was a doctor of history. Because of his Jewish origins, he was persecuted both individually and collectively. He left Germany in 1935 and emigrated permanently to the United States in 1936.

In January 1944, the painting was in the possession of Erich Heckel and located in the cellar of his Berlin apartment building. Heckel donated it to the Kunsthalle Karlsruhe museum in 1967, where it remains to this day.

It could not be clarified when and under what circumstances Erich Heckel came into possession of the painting or even obtained ownership of it between January 1934 and January 1944. In the view of the Advisory Commission, it thus had to be assumed that the painting was seized as the result of Nazi persecution. The Commission has therefore unanimously decided to recommend the restitution of *Geschwister* to the heirs of Max Fischer.

The heirs have announced that they plan to donate the painting *Geschwister* to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The Advisory Commission acknowledges this as a special gesture.

The complete recommendation is available at [beratende-kommission.de](http://beratende-kommission.de).

Beratende Kommission  
im Zusammenhang mit der Rückgabe  
NS-verfolgungsbedingt entzogenen Kulturguts,  
insbesondere aus jüdischem Besitz

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