

HOUSES IN UNTERACH AM ATTERSEE. Around 1916

Oil on canvas, 110 x 110 cm

Unsigned

Inventory Nr. 4209

Acquired in 1948 through the Bloch-Bauer bequest, Vienna

Novotny/Dobai, Nr. 199

First exhibition: Gustav Klimt Memorial Exhibition, Secession, Vienna, June–July 1928, Nr. 26

Klimt's late landscapes may be differentiated in several ways from the earlier ones: in particular there is more emphasis on colour as a compositional element, a development that is directly related to the greater freedom in painting generally at that time. This freedom is, of course, reflected in all of Klimt's work. In contrast to his earlier representations of pure nature (gardens, meadows and water), he now devoted himself to architectonic motifs, principally the villages along the banks of the Attersee. The impetus for this change may have been provided by a stay on Lake Garda in the summer of 1913, when he painted two views of small, waterside towns. In

the present work he integrates the blocks of houses into the surface of the picture, scarcely bothering about foreshortening and perspective. The smooth, colourful walls are contrasted with the rather loosely painted trees. On the bank can be seen flowers painted with detailed precision. The picture dates to a period when the artist was spending the summer months at Weißenbach am Attersee with the Flöges, for whom he was practically one of the family. It was at Weißenbach also that Klimt painted the two views of the forester's house that he himself occupied each summer between 1914 and 1916.

