

# VILHELM HAMMERSHØI

1864–1916

## 41. *Courtyard Interior at Strandgade 30 (c. 1905)*

(*Gårdinteriør. Strandgade 30*)

Oil on canvas, mounted on panel, 29½ x 24¾ in. (75 x 63 cm)

Signed with initials lower left: VH

PROVENANCE: The collection of Grosserer William Bendix, Copenhagen; Winkel & Magnussen, Auction 224, 1937, lot 25, ill. p. 25; Overlæge G. Espersen, Thisted; Bruun Rasmussen Auction 465, 1984, lot 163, ill. p. 75.

EXHIBITED: Den Frie Udstilling 1906, nr. 82; Busch-Reisinger Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, *Danish Paintings of the Nineteenth Century from the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.*, 1994, no. 9; Ordrupgaard, Copenhagen, Musée D'Orsay, Paris; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, *Vilhelm Hammershøi*, 1997–98, no. 41.

LITERATURE: Winkel & Magnussens (ed.), *Vilhelm Hammershøi*, Copenhagen (1905), no. 8; V. Jastrau (ed.), *Vilhelm Hammershøi*, Smaa Kunstbøger, no. 15, Copenhagen 1916, ill. p. 49; Sophus Michaëlis and Alfred Bramsen, *Vilhelm Hammershøi, Kunstneren og hans Værk*, Copenhagen. 1918, no. 269. ill. (described as: *Gaard-Interiør*); Haavard Rostrup, *Om Vilhelm Hammershøis Kunst* in: *Kunst og Kultur*, Årg. 26, Oslo 1940, ill. p.192; Winkel & Magnussen (eds.), *Kunst i Privat Eje*, I-III. Copenhagen 1944–45. Vol. III, p. 373, ill. (described as: *Et Hjørne af Mikkel Vibes Gaard*); Poul Vad, *Hammershøi, værk og liv*, Copenhagen, 1988, ill. p.373 (English edition 1992); Peter Nisbet, *Danish Paintings of the Nineteenth Century From the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr.*, Busch-Reisinger Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 1994, p. 12, ill p. 13; Anne-Birgitte Fonsmark, Henri Loyrette and Mikael Wivel, *Vilhelm Hammershøi*, Ordrupgaard, Copenhagen 1997, p. 166, ill. p. 104 (English edition).

This motif with the large number of windows was painted in the artist's apartment in Strandgade 30. Towards the courtyard at the rear, the building has been extended with two wings; these are connected by a closed external gallery with windows covering the original façade and cutting off the view of the floor below. This is seen on the right of the picture, while the windows on the left overlook the south wing, here furnishing the entrance to the apartment. The scene has been painted from the north wing opposite from the window where Hammershøi painted *Dust Motes Dancing in Sunlight* in 1900. The gallery seen from the dark inside room has also served as a motif. Although the picture appears to have been painted only in brown and shades of greyish black, it also contains areas in blue. It provides a splendid statement of the building's architecture, the skewed windows and the half-timbered construction that can be glimpsed behind the layer of plaster beneath the windows.

The woman standing at the open window and wearing a scarf around her head has many predecessors in Dutch painting, and yet the painting provides a striking impression of old Copenhagen. There is yet another version of this motif (Bramsen & Michaëlis no 268, which in 1944 belonged to Thorsten Laurin in Stockholm; exhibited in New York 1998 as no. 40), and one without a figure (Bramsen & Michaëlis no. 193, exhibited in New York as no. 17), with a preparatory work as though Hammershøi has painted the same corner of the building diagonally across the courtyard from another of the windows in the apartment.

E. F.