

J. L. JENSEN
1800–1856

53. *Basket with Roses on a Sill, 1825*

(*Kurv med roser på en karm*)

Oil on canvas, 15 x 17 $\frac{2}{3}$ in. (38 x 45 cm)

Signed and dated lower right: I.L. Jensen 1825

PROVENANCE: Nellemann & Thomsen, Auction 592, 1990, lot 1223, ill. p. 84 (described as: *Opstilling med sammenflettede rosen grene i en kurv på en træplade*); Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 558, 1991, lot 4, ill. p. 13.

The basket, like the vase, is an accessory seen in classical Dutch flower painting. Here it is placed asymmetrically in the picture to allow room for a garland of roses winding round the basket and ending in a bud. A single yellow rose forms an important contrasting splash of colour amidst the red and white.

The picture was painted the year in which Jensen became a member of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. In another piece he painted in that year, a similar garland is seen in an arrangement made up of seasonal flowers brought together in a single composition.

The rose was Jensen's preferred flower. Another painting entitled *A Basket of Roses (En Kurv med Roser, 1829)* was sold at the auction of the Dowager Queen Caroline Amalie's estate at Amalienborg Palace on 24 April 1882, lot no. 77. It has the same measurements as the painting in the Loeb collection, 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, but changed in pencil in one of the catalogues to 14 $\frac{7}{12}$ x 17 $\frac{1}{3}$ inches. But the painting thus sold was dated 1829. So unless there is a printing error in the catalogue, this cannot be the painting now in the Loeb collection. *A Basket of Roses*, no. 77, was sold to the bookseller Philipsen.

Queen Caroline Amalie was widowed on the death of Christian VIII in 1848. She was born at Augustenborg Castle in the Southern Jutland duchies in 1798.

M. T.

The following flowers are seen in the picture, clockwise from the yellow rose:

Rosa hemispherica pre-1625, "Sulphur Rose," Rosa gallica "Assemblages de Beautés" 1823; syn "Rouge Éblouissante"; Rosa centifolia "Muscrosa" pre-1563, "Common Moss"; Rosa centifolia "Major" L. pre-1563, "Cabbage Rose," Rosa centifolia pomponiana, "Pompon de Bourgogne," pre-1664, "Burgundian Rose" (the small flower immediately below the large white one); Rosa Centifolia "Alba" 1775; syn. "Unique Blanche," "White Province," Rosa? (centifolia variants); Rose foetida "Bicolor," pre-1600, "Austrian Copper"; Rosa gallica again, above the yellow "Sulphur Rose."

T. T.