

J. L. JENSEN
1800–1856

58. *Bouquet of Field Flowers with Butterflies*, 1841

(*Markbuket med aks og sommerfugle*)

Oil on canvas, 22 x 17½ in. (56 x 44 cm)

Signed and dated lower right: I.L. Jensen 1841

PROVENANCE: Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 454, 1983, lot 361, ill. p. 195.

EXHIBITED: Bruce Museum of Art and Science, Greenwich, Connecticut, and The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, New York, *Danish Paintings of the Nineteenth Century from the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr.*, 2005, no. 7, ill.

It frequently happens that Jensen places his subjects in a natural setting, portraying his flowers on the root, but usually linked to beech trunks and against a landscape background. Here, he is content to allow a branch to sway in the background, and he goes quite close up to the flowers of the field. He thereby creates a very Danish June bouquet consisting of blue cornflowers, red poppies, and white oxeye daisies. The barley at the back is a little too ripe to correspond to the time of year when the other flowers would be blooming, but they could presumably appear at the same time. In any event the artist has chosen to show both. The narrow grassy foreground is unusual. The lighting seems to be one commonly employed by Jensen, an indoor rather than outdoor light source.

Jensen had already shown an interest in this motif the previous year, for on 2 January 1840 Kunstforeningen (the Copenhagen Art Society) sold a painting by lottery entitled *Markblomster og Insecter* (*Field Flowers and Insects*), and in 1853 another one was disposed of in the same way, this time simply called *Markblomster* (*Flowers of the Field*)—owners unknown.

M. T.

The following flowers are seen in the painting:

FROM ABOVE: Malt; *Leuchantemum vulgare*, “oxeye daisy”; *Papaver rhoeas* L. (?), “corn poppy”; *Centaurea cyanus*, “cornflower” or “bluebottle.”

T. T.