

J.L. JENSEN
1800-1856

63. *Poppies and Lilacs*

(*Valmuer og Syrener*)

Oil on panel, 27½ x 22 in. (70 x 56 cm)

Signed lower right: I.L. Jensen

PROVENANCE: Sotheby's, Auction 'Elisabeth,' London, November 2, 1988, lot 7 (described as: *Poppies and Lilacs*)

In this picture, which is filled to overflowing, we see spring in all its profusion— not exotic plants, but spring in a Danish country garden, concentrated in a sophisticated, slightly garish display of colour. The pale purple lilac, known from every hedge, is combined with the delicate, simple red poppy and branches bearing white blossoms. Perhaps the painter was also interested in the contrast in size between the three flowers he combined in a single composition.

Because it is a herald of spring, the lilac symbolises the first stirrings of love. The poppy expresses doubt.

M. T.

The following flowers are seen in the painting:

FROM THE TOP: *Syringa vulgaris* L., "Lilac"; *Papaver somniferum*, "Opium Poppy" and "Opium Poppy peony-flowered series"; *Philadelphus coronarius* L., "Mock Orange."

T. T.