

J.L. JENSEN
1800–1856

64. *Bouquet of Poppies, Peonies and Bindweeds*

(*Buket af valmuer, pæoner og snerler*)

Oil on canvas, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (63 x 50 cm)

Signed lower right: I.L. Jensen

PROVENANCE: Presumably identical with lot 86 (described as: *Blomstestykke*) at the estate auction of the dowager Queen Caroline Amalie, Amalienborg 24.4.1882; acquired by Michelsen (1882); Arne Bruun Rasmussen Auction 483, 1986, lot 48, ill. p. 24.

Like three others in the Loeb collection, this picture belongs to the type which does not show the flowers in vases, nor standing or lying on a table top with space around them, but the artist paints them using a close-up technique. Until research has gone further, it will not be possible to decide whether this type belongs to a specific period in Jensen's enormous oeuvre. I might tentatively suggest that it is a late type, i.e. from the end of the 1840's. Here we see single and double poppies (not peonies, as the title suggests), bright red and pink, with a few blue convolvulus as a contrasting colour, the exuberant as opposed to the delicate. The poppies are represented in three stages, from seed pods to buds to fully flowering blossoms, and they are seen both from the front, in profile and turned away. Perhaps it is a bouquet to show the rapid passage of time. The poppy very often appears in classical Dutch flower painting.

An undated painting entitled *Flower Piece* sold in the auction of the dowager Queen Caroline Amalie's effects at Amalienborg Palace on 24 June 1882, lot no. 86, corresponds in dimensions (25 x 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 65 x 52 cm) to the painting in the Loeb collection. However, the title is too imprecise to allow an assured identification.

M. T.

The following flowers are seen in the painting:

Papaver somniferum, "Opium Poppy"; *Papaver somniferum*, "Opium Poppy peony flowered series";
Ipomea tricolor, "Bindweed."

T. T.