P.S. Krøyer 1851-1909

153 - Self-Portrait. 1898 (Selvportræt)



Etching on Japanese paper. 14½ x 12½ (36,5 x 32 cm)

Signed in print: S. K. Mai 98 and on the mount in pencil: S. Krøyer with dedication: "To Henny from Søren"

PROVENANCE: Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 915, 2023, lot 137, ill.

The art of etching was originally not among the techniques taught at the Royal Danish Art Academy in Copenhagen, leading the Skagen painter Carl Locher (1851-1915) to travel south to Berlin in Germany to learn. In 1898, having returned to Denmark, Locher offered to teach this technique. His classes would take place in the apartment building Holckenhus, where fellow painter Krøyer had previously lived with the painters Agnes and Harald Slott-Møller as neighbors, and now he returned as a student to learn the art of etching. Holckenhus is located in central Copenhagen behind the city hall.

It was in this place that Krøyer carried out this self-portrait in 1898, as well as a portrait of the painter Vilhelm Kyhn, but that was as far as it went. He had painted self-portraits in oil before and he kept on doing so till his death in 1909. He offered this print to Henny Brodersen (1868-1960), wife of the head of civil service in Skagen, J. F. Brodersen (1858-1943) and mother of five children. After P. S. Krøyer's divorce from Marie Krøyer, Henny became Krøyer's great love and close confidante.