

## H. A. BRENDEKILDE

1857–1942

### 20. *Winter*

(*Ved Vintertid*)

Oil on canvas, 28 $\frac{2}{3}$  x 37 in. (73 x 94 cm)

Signed lower left: H.A. Brendekilde

PROVENANCE: Mr. Oscar Wandel, Frederiksholms Kanal 24, Copenhagen; Kunsthallen, Auction 228, 1958, lot 17, ill. p. 9; Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 448, 1983, lot 238, ill. p. 205; Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 452, 1983, lot 33, ill. p. 23.

EXHIBITED: Munich, *Internationale Kunstausstellung*, 1891, no. 2735; Guildhall, London, *A Selection of Works by Danish Painters*, 1907, no. 64; 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. 19, ill. p. 30–31, 69.

**W***inter* was not dated, but it might have been painted at the end of the 1880s somewhere near Næstved in Zealand, where Brendekilde went to live in 1885.

Many of the artist's early works show obvious traces of social realism inspired by contemporary French painting and bear the marks of Brendekilde's own poverty in childhood and youth. However, the artist's style gradually developed into idyllic genre paintings, each making some clearly expressed point. The numerous works of this kind almost always invite the viewer to participate in some story implicit in the painting. The present instance is the portrayal of a meeting between a couple, perhaps sweethearts in their youth, in the winter of their lives. The tracks in the snow reveal that he has stopped, hesitated, and perhaps turned around, but has then decided to continue his course toward the waiting woman.

Fine light and delightful colors underline the scenery's mood of assurance and encourage the hope of a happy union.

S.L.