

SOPHIE HENCK

1822–1893

44. *Bouquet of Flowers in Greek Vase*

(*Brogede blomster i græsk vase*)

Oil on canvas, 16¼ x 12½ in. (41 x 32 cm)

PROVENANCE: Kunsthallen, Auction 398, 1991, lot 66, ill. p. 3.

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. 11, ill.

LITERATURE: Patricia G. Berman, *In Another Light, Danish Painting in the Nineteenth Century*, New York, 2007, ill. p. 129.

In 1868, Sophie Henck exhibited a painting in the Charlottenborg exhibition entitled *En Vase med Blomster* (no. 80), (*A Vase of Flowers*). As her oeuvre was small, it may well be that this is the same picture. It depicts a bouquet in a classical vase, with a compact and strict pyramidal, indeed even conical, composition. It is reminiscent of the bouquets painted in the 1840s by Sophie Henck's teacher, J. L. Jensen, but is even more compact and more round than his and quite obviously the creation of a different temperament. The pyramidal shape harks back to Dutch flower painting, but in all its diversity it radiates peace rather than splendor.

M.T.

*The following flowers are seen in the painting:*

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: *Ribes sanguineum* (flowering currant); *Delphinium hybrida* (Delphinium); *Convallaria majalis* (Lily-of-the-valley); *Convolvulus tricolor* (Bindweed); *Rosa* (Rose); *Coreopsis sepc.* (Tickseed); *Primula hybrida* (Auricula); *Viola hybrida* (Violet); (Pansy); *Myosotis palustris* (Forget-me-not); *Tropaeolum majus* (Nasturtium).

T.T.



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