

J. L. JENSEN  
1800–1856

54. *Dahlias, Asters, and Hollyhock on a Sill*, 1831

(*Georginer, asters og stokroser på en karm*)

Oil on canvas, 13 x 15½ in. (33 x 39 cm)

Signed and dated lower right: I.L. Jensen 1831

PROVENANCE: Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 454, 1983, lot 363, ill. p. 199.

Jensen was fond of this type of flower painting presenting a bouquet lying on a table; indeed, it might be said that he himself developed it. It creates a horizontal, quietly restful composition. The heads of the dahlias lie like circles of color intersecting each other, with radiant white against the dark area; there are fine complementary contrasts in the small flowers overhanging the edge of the table.

The dahlia, which derives from Mexico, was new in Europe in the 1840's and became a very popular late summer flower in Danish gardens. The hollyhock was a favorite in rustic gardens.

In 1831 Jensen exhibited eleven flower pieces in the Charlottenborg exhibition, but as they appear only under the general designation of "flower pieces," without further specification, it cannot be determined whether this painting was among them.

Between 1830 and 1855, Jensen sold forty-three paintings by lottery in Kunstforeningen (The Copenhagen Art Society) and was thus among those most frequently purchased. Unfortunately, the titles are imprecise and the measurements not indicated, so it is difficult to identify the works concerned.

M. T.

*The following species are seen in this painting:*

FROM ABOVE: *Lobelia fulgens* Willd., "lobelia"; *Dahlia hybrida*, "dahlia"; *Aster hybrida* (?), "Michaelmas daisy"; *Calendula officinalis* L., "marigold"; *Alcea rosea*, peony-shaped double flowers, "hollyhock."

T. T.