

J. L. JENSEN
1800–1856

62. *Red and White Camellias*

(*Røde og hvide kameliaer*)

Oil on canvas, 20½ x 15⅓ in. (52 x 39 cm)

Signed lower left: I.L. Jensen

PROVENANCE: Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 452, 1983, lot 102, ill. p. 45.

Camellias were usually cultivated in pots, but Jensen approaches so closely here that we can see only the uppermost part of the plants (which generally flower in the wintertime). We are confronted with a white camellia in front of a red one, both flowering very profusely. It is scarcely possible to imagine any flower opening more than a camellia, but it takes some time before the tight buds open to full blossom. Jensen has portrayed all these stages in a color composition dramatized with contrasts.

In symbolic language, the camellia signifies transitoriness and pride.

In 1831, Jensen painted a red camellia in a pot together with hyacinths and auriculas; the present owner is unknown.

M. T.

The following species is seen in the painting:

Camellia japonica L., "camellia."

T. T.