

PEDER MØNSTED

1859–1941

94. *Woodland Scene with Pond Near Vejle, 1920*

(*Skovparti med sø fra egnen omkring Vejle*)

Oil on canvas, 19<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> x 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. (50 x 70 cm)

Signed and dated lower left: P. Mønsted, Munkebjerg 1920

PROVENANCE: Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 452, 1983, lot 166, ill. p. 65.

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. 33, ill.; Scandinavia House, New York, *Danish Paintings from the Golden Age to the Modern Breakthrough, Selections from the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr.*, 2013, no. 29.

Reflections in water and contrasts in the forest are a fundamental motif in Mønsted's work. The still water with the white (and a few pink) flowering water lilies with sunbeams falling across them and through the beech foliage has led to this charming picture, entirely enclosed within itself. Mønsted treats the famous water lily motif with a quite different kind of photographic realism from the French Impressionist Claude Monet (1840–1926), for whom color was everything. The white bench on which two excursionists are resting underlines an atmosphere of pleasure and enjoyment.

The area around Vejle is a hilly, east Jutland moraine<sup>1</sup> landscape containing a great deal of beech forest. The picture was painted in Munkebjerg, a favorite destination for excursions, situated quite close to the town.

M. T.

<sup>1</sup>An accumulation of earth and stones carried and finally deposited by a glacier.