



Henri-Pierre Danloux (Paris 1753 - Paris 1809)

Portrait of a Lady, head and Shoulders, wearing a Grey Hat

oil on canvas, unfinished
73.5 x 60.5 cm.; 29 x 23 3/4 in.

Born in Paris, Henri-Pierre Danloux was orphaned at an early age and was raised by his uncle, an architect. Around 1770 he became a pupil of the genre painter Lépicié and later of Vien, a history painter, whom he followed to Rome in 1775 and then traveled throughout Italy. However, unlike most of his contemporaries, Danloux preferred drawing the Roman countryside and portraits instead of ancient monuments.

By 1783, he had settled in Lyon, where Danloux established himself as a portraitist in the relaxed, informal manner of Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin. After moving to Paris in 1785, his reputation grew as a portraitist to the aristocracy. There he was patronized by the Baronne Megret de Serilly d'Etigny, who obtained for him a number of important portrait commissions from the aristocracy. Danloux paid great attention to rendering fabrics, embroidery, and accessories in both oils and chalk. After another sojourn in Rome, Danloux returned to Paris in 1789, where he was commissioned to make portraits of the royal family.

By 1792 the French Revolution forced him to flee to London. There, Danloux was influenced by fashionable English portrait painters such as Thomas Laqwrnce (1769-1830), John Hpppner (1758-1810), and George Romney (1734-1802). Danloux excelled in family groups and portraits of children, whom he captured in natural, spontaneous poses. He also began painting history subjects. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in London which resulted in commissions from many English patrons.

He returned to Paris in 1801 and spent his remaining years focused on portraits and history painting.

Provenance:

Albert Lehmann, according to a label, verso;
Camille Groult (1832–1908), Paris;

The Groult Collection sale, Paris, Carpenetier, 21 March 1952, lot 76;
Victor Frederick William Cavendish-Bentinck, 9th Duke of Portland (1897–1990);
Thence by descent to the former owners

Exhibitions

Paris, Musée du Jeu de Paume, Exposition de cent portraits de femmes des Ecoles Anglaise et Française du XVIIIe Siècle, 23 April – 1 July 1909, no. 54