Stephen Ongpin Fine Art



Henri Joseph HESSE (Paris 1781 - Paris 1849)

Portrait of a Young Girl

Watercolour, in a fictive oval, on paper laid down on board.
Signed and dated Hesse . 1824 at the left.
245 x 202 mm. (9 5/8 x 8 in.) [image]
260 x 211 mm. (10 1/4 x 8 1/4 in.) [sheet]

Provenance:

Anonymous sale, Paris, Hôtel Drouot, 6 June 1990, lot 220
John Mitchell Fine Paintings, London
Private collection, London.

Artist description:

Active as a draughtsman, painter and lithographer, but perhaps best known as a miniaturist, Henri-Joseph Hesse was a pupil of Jacques-Louis David and the painter and miniaturist Jean-Baptise Isabey. He exhibited intermittently at the Salons between 1808 and 1833, making his debut with a painting of A Young Woman Watching a Sleeping Child. At the Salon of 1810 he showed portraits and a number of miniatures, and won a second-class medal. Hesse travelled to Germany in 1815, but was back in Paris by the following year, when he is listed as a 'peintre en miniature' and living on the rue Neuve-Sainte-Eustache, in the Almanach de 25.000 adresses de Paris pour l'année 1816. Hesse became known in particular for his miniatures, although he also gained some important commissions for official portraits, notably one of the Duchesse de Berri, which was exhibited at the Salon of 1819. He won another medal at the last Salon in which he took part, in 1833. Hesse also produced a number of lithographic portraits. Both his older brother, Nicolas-Auguste Hesse (1795-1869), and his son, Alexandre Hesse (1806-1879) were active as painters; the latter achieved considerable fame as a painter of history subjects and religious works. Works by Henri-Joseph Hesse are today in the collections of the Musée Condé in Chantilly, the Fondation Custodia (Frits Lugt Collection) and the

Louvre in Paris, as well as the Museo Lázaro Galdiano in Madrid and the Museum Briner und Kern in Winterthur.