

Auguste-Gaspard-Louis BOUCHER-DESNOYERS (Paris 1779 - Paris 1857)

Portrait of Anne-Adrienne Lévêque

Black chalk, with stumping, heightened with white.

Signed Aug. Desnoyers. in pencil at the lower right.

185 mm. (7 1/4 in.) diameter [image]

282 x 223 mm. (11 1/8 x 8 3/4 in.) [sheet]

The sitter of this portrait, Anne-Adrienne Lévêque, was the wife of the museum official Louis-Antoine Lavallée (1768-1818), who served as the secretary of Napoléon's Musée Central des Arts and was briefly its director after the resignation of Baron Dominique-Vivant Denon.

Artist description:

One of the leading engravers in France in the first half of the 19th century, Auguste Boucher-Desnoyers was trained as an engineer but devoted much of his spare time to drawing and engraving. At the age of twelve he entered the studio of the neoclassical painter Guillaume Guillon-Lethière and was also trained in printmaking by Louis Darcis. By 1796 Boucher-Desnoyers had earned a reputation as a gifted reproductive engraver, winning a prize of 2,000 francs for an engraving that he exhibited at the Salon of 1799. He continued to win prizes and honours for his engravings after works in the Louvre by such artists as Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci, as well as paintings by Robert Lefevre and Baron Gérard. In 1816 he was elected to the Institut and in 1825 was appointed engraver to the King; three years later he was ennobled as a Baron. (In 1825 his portrait was drawn by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, who showed the artist having paused while at work on an engraving; the drawing is today in the Katrin Bellinger collection in London.) During the last decade of his life, Boucher-Desnoyers, suffering from age and poor eyesight, worked very little.