Pierre Adolphe Hall

Title
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Marie-Antoinette (1755-1793), Queen of France 1774-1792, seated on a green wooden chair in a floral woodland landscape, wearing mauve dress over white shift, the sleeves adorned with green ribbons

Description

PIERRE-ADOLPHE HALL (FRANCO-SWEDISH, 1739-1793)
Marie-Antoinette (1755-1793), Queen of France 1774-1792, seated on a green wooden chair in a floral woodland landscape, wearing mauve dress over white shift, the sleeves adorned with green ribbons
Signed 'Hall' (lower right, on the back of the chair)
painting on ivory
73 mm. diam., gilt-metal mount
Prospective purchasers are advised that several countries prohibit the importation of property containing materials from endangered species, including but not limited to coral, ivory and tortoiseshell. Accordingly, prospective purchasers should familiarize themselves with relevant customs regulations prior to bidding if they intend to import this lot into another country.
Marguerite Jallut (Marie-Antoinette et ses peintres, Paris, n.d. [circa 1955], p. 35), makes an interesting observation about the work of Pierre-Adolphe Hall: 'Around 1780, Peter-Adolff [sic] Hall, Swedish artist like Roslin, carried out a vaporous and very seductive image, albeit imperfect, image of the queen; which he reproduced by modifying it several times. The characteristics of the queen, which are recreated exactly, but the smile on her lips hides the thickness of them; by narrowing the shoulders in an almost excessive way and slimming her waist with a tight corset, the painting noticeably reduces the importance of her bust. The miniaturist's technique however reached an incomparable perfection. We believe like Diderot that the drawing was neglected and, so seductive are the works of Hall, he did not leave us with a perfect likeness of the queen.'
A copy of the present miniature was in the collection of John Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913), see G. C. Williamson, Catalogue of the Collection of Miniatures - the Property of J. Pierpont Morgan, London, 1906, III, no. 495). The miniature was lent by Henry Nyburg to the exhibition at the Château of Versailles in 1955 Marie-Antoinette, Archiduchesse, Dauphine et Reine, no. 54, and was later sold Christie's, Geneva, 10 May 1983, lot 287 (as by 'Peter Adolf Hall').

Medium: painting on ivory

Size: Height 2.9 in.; Width 2.9 in. / Height 7.3 cm.; Width 7.3 cm.

Misc.: Signed

Sale of: Christie's London: Tuesday, June 2, 2015 [Lot 00421]
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Estimate: 20,000 - 30,000 GBP
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(30,660 - 45,991 USD)

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(38,325 USD)

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