



Thomas Lawrence  
(1769–1830)

Title Portrait of Lady Selina Caroline Meade, later Countess Clam-Martinic (1797–1872)

Object type painting

Description

Lady Selina Caroline Meade (1797–1872) was the second daughter of Richard Meade, 2nd Earl of Clanwilliam (1766–1806) and his wife, Countess Caroline (third daughter of Joseph Count of Thun-Hohenstein in Bohemia). Lady Selina Caroline married the Austrian General and field Marshal Karl II. Johann Nepomuk Count Clam-Martinic (1792–1842) in 1821.

Sir Thomas Lawrence painted this portrait of her in April 1819, when he was in Vienna painting portraits of allied leaders for the Prince of Wales, a series known as the Waterloo Portraits. Lawrence described her as 'in beauty and interesting character, one of the most distinguished persons in Vienna'.

Lady Selina Caroline is painted half-length, body facing right with head turned in three-quarter profile, looking at viewer; wearing a white satin dress with lace-edged décolletage, long full gathered sleeves, and a thin sash under the bust, multiple-strand pearl necklace and pearl drop earrings, and her hair in a topknot with ringlets. She holds a posy in her left hand. In the background at lower right is the Stephansdom in Vienna.

Date April 1819

Mediums oil on canvas

Dimensions Height: 76 cm (29.9 in). Width: 62 cm (24.4 in)

Collection Private collection

1955, in collection of The Earl of Clanwilliam (Garlick, 1955, p. 50)

Exhibition history

Royal Academy summer exhibition, Somerset House, 1820, cat.no. 540, as Lady Selina Meade

Thomas Lawrence: Regency Power and Brilliance (<http://www.rpg.org.uk/whatson/exhibitions/2010/thomas-lawrence-regency-power-and-brilliance-mini-site.php>).

National Portrait Gallery, 21 October 2010–23 January 2011 - featured on the audio page (<http://www.rpg.org.uk/whatson/exhibitions/2010/thomas-lawrence-regency-power-and-brilliance-mini-site/thomas-lawrence-audio.php>)

Thomas Lawrence: Regency Power and Brilliance (<http://britchart.yale.edu/exhibitions/thomas-lawrence>), Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, 24 February 2011–5 June 2011

Notes

Lawrence's sketch for the portrait, signed with initials and dated 'TL/April/1819/Vienna', in pencil, black and red chalk, was sold by Christie's in 1962 for £18,500 (<http://www.christies.com/lotfinder/lot/sir-thomas-lawrence-pra-2060415-details.aspx>). The portrait itself, was sold by Christie's in late 2016 for over £2.2 million pounds (<https://www.christies.com/lotfinder/lot/sir-thomas-lawrence-pra-britain-1769-1830-london-618272-details.aspx>).

References

Engraved by Charles Heath in 1828 (Garlick, 1955).

NG 985 (<http://www.rpg.org.uk/collections/search/person/ng8016>), two engravings by Heath and two by George Thomas Doo dated 1835.

Reproduced in Kenneth's Garlick's catalogues of 1955 (plate 85) and 1985.

Source/Photographer

Reproduction of a painting that is in the public domain because of its age.