



Anders Zorn - Portrait Of Mrs. Veronica Heiss



16 000 EUR

Signature : Anders Zorn

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Water color

Diameter : 38 cm

Height : 49 cm

Description

Anders Zorn (Swedish, 1860-1920)
Sweden
Portrait of Mrs Veronica Heiss with Coral
Hair Ornament and Necklace, 1883
Watercolour
on paper
49 × 38 cm (19 ¼ × 15 in.)
visible image
43 × 31.5 cm (16 ¾ × 12 ½ in.)
framed: 69 × 55.5
cm (27 ¼ × 21 ¾ in.)
signed "Zorn"
executed in
1883
This early watercolour portrait by Anders
Zorn depicts Mrs Veronica Heiss (née Reiner,
1841-1927) in a bust-length, oval composition.
Zorn portrays the sitter wearing a vivid
madder-red blouse and adorned with a coral
necklace and matching coral hair ornament,
which stand out against her dark brown hair. The
artist's fluid handling of the medium captures a
rich interplay of light and shadow, bringing
lifelike warmth to Mrs Heiss's complexion and
the lustrous red hues of her attire. Even at only 23

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years old, Zorn was already a virtuoso of watercolour - he chose this medium (a relatively uncommon choice in his era) as his primary technique until about 1887, before gaining international renown as one of the most acclaimed portrait painters of his time. In late 1883, Zorn had just returned to Stockholm from abroad with a portfolio full of new watercolours and was rapidly engaged for several portrait commissions. Among these were a pair of portraits of the Heiss family: Veronica and her husband Frans Paul Heiss, a prominent Bavarian-born master brewer in Stockholm. Art historian Gerda Boëthius later described these works as "vackra akvareller" - beautiful watercolours - in which Zorn demonstrated both technical assurance and keen characterization. She noted that Zorn "visar sin säkerhet att måla svart" ("shows his confidence in painting black"), capturing the dignified presence of Frans Heiss "på ett utomordentligt sätt" ("in an extraordinary way"). By contrast, "Fru Veronicas porträtt är koloristiskt rikt. Hennes blus är krapprod och hon har ett klarrött korallband i sitt mörkbruna hår" - Mrs Veronica's portrait is richly coloured, with a madder-red blouse and a bright red coral band in her dark hair. This vivid use of colour, combined with Zorn's impeccable technique, makes the portrait a compelling example of his early mastery in watercolour. Provenance: Mrs Veronica Heiss (née Reiner, 1841-1927); Thence by descent to her daughter, Laura Hartmann (née Heiss); Bukowskis, Stockholm, 3-5 April 1957, lot no. 291 Literature: Gerda Boëthius, Zorn - Tecknaren - Målaren - Etsaren - Skulptören, 1949, listed under 1883, p. 539 and mentioned p. 134; "Konst i svenska hem", first series, page 98, Heiss Collection, collection 83. "Porträtt av disponent Fr. Heiss.