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Portrait - Caroline Of Brunswick And Princess Charlotte Of Wales - English School, Circa 1810



9 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

English School, c. 1808-1812 Portrait of Caroline Amalia of Brunswick (1768-1821) and her daughter Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales (1796-1817) Oil on canvas. Presented in its antique carved and gilt wood and gesso frame. Canvas: 81 × 68 cm (31.9 × 26.8 in.) Description: This portrait depicts Caroline Amalia of Brunswick, wife of the Prince of Wales, the future King George IV, seated beside her only daughter, Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales, heir presumptive to the British throne until her untimely death in 1817. The young princess delicately presents to her mother a miniature portrait suspended from a gold chain, most likely depicting George, Prince of Wales, the future George IV. This detail, placed at the heart of the composition, lends the painting both an intimate family character and a

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strong dynastic significance. The artist adopts a restrained and intimate approach, far removed from the formality of official court portraiture. The psychological subtlety of the sitters, together with the refined rendering of lace, jewellery, fabrics and flesh tones, demonstrates a fine command of early nineteenth-century British portrait painting. Through its iconography, the work fully embodies the aesthetic of the Regency period, combining classical elegance with a growing taste for intimate family portraiture. Relatively uncommon on today's art market, portraits bringing together Caroline of Brunswick and Princess Charlotte provide a valuable testimony to the history of the British monarchy in the early nineteenth century.

The Sitters
Caroline Amalia of Brunswick (1768-1821) Daughter of Charles William Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick, Caroline married the Prince of Wales, the future George IV, in 1795. Their marriage rapidly became one of the most notorious royal unions in British history, giving rise to decades of political controversy, public scandal and intense media attention. When George IV ascended the throne of the United Kingdom in 1820, Caroline became Queen Consort but remained effectively excluded from court life. The government's attempt to deprive her of her royal status provoked widespread public sympathy throughout Britain.

Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales (1796-1817) The only child of Caroline and George IV, Princess Charlotte was regarded from an early age as the great hope of the British monarchy. Much admired for her independent character, she married Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg in 1816. Her death at the age of twenty-one, following the delivery of a stillborn son in November 1817, plunged the nation into an unprecedented period of mourning. Her loss profoundly altered the line of succession and ultimately paved the way for the accession of her cousin, Queen Victoria, inaugurating one of the most significant eras in British history.

The Miniature : The miniature portrait suspended from

Caroline's necklace appears to represent George, Prince of Wales, the future George IV. More than a simple jewel, it forms the true iconographic focal point of the composition. Its presence introduces a particularly subtle reading of the painting: despite the breakdown of the royal marriage, the future sovereign remains symbolically present between his wife and daughter.

Dating: The costumes, hairstyles, jewellery and Princess Charlotte's apparent age all support a date of execution around 1808-1812, at the beginning of the Regency period.

Condition: Very good overall condition. The painting has recently undergone professional conservation treatment, including: surface cleaning; localized structural consolidation; localized, fully reversible retouching; subtle restoration of the original antique frame. These carefully considered interventions ensure an excellent state of presentation while contributing to the long-term preservation of the work. As with any period painting, minor signs of age and wear may remain on both the canvas and the frame. These are inherent to the age of the artwork and do not affect its visual appreciation or overall presentation.

The painting is now ready to join a collection and may be displayed immediately, with no further conservation required.

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