

# LE CLAIRE

SEIT 1982

## KUNST

ADOLPH VON MENZEL

1815 Breslau – Berlin 1905

*Portrait of Fraulein Hanna Maercker*

Watercolour and gouache, over an underdrawing in pencil; 1848.

Signed and dated *Menzel / Sept. 1848* at the lower left.

221 x 180 mm.

PROVENANCE: Dr. Karl Anton Maercker and Anna Catharina Maercker, Berlin and Halberstadt – His wife, By descent to E. Maercker, Halberstadt, by 1905 – Alexander Prentzel, Berlin – Private collection, Southern Germany – Private collection.

LITERATURE: Hugo von Tschudi, *Adolph von Menzel: Abbildungen seiner Gemälde und Studien*, Munich, 1905, pp.168-169, no.206 ('Tochter des Justizministers Maercker') – Georg Jakob Wolf, *Adolf von Menzel: der Maler deutschen Wesens: 149 Gemälde und Handzeichnungen des Meisters*, Munich, 1915, illustrated p.92 – Karl Robert Langewiesche, ed., *Der Blumenkorb: Deutsche Maler 1800 bis 1870*, Königstein im Taunus and Leipzig, 1921, pl.46 – Gisold Lammel, *Adolph Menzel und seine Kreise*, Dresden and Basel, 1993, p.46 – Claude Keisch and Marie Ursula Riemann-Reyher, ed., *Adolph Menzel 1815-1905: Between Romanticism and Impressionism*, exhibition catalogue, Paris, Washington and Berlin, 1996-1997, p.201, under no.28 and pp.217-218, under no.38 – Bernhard Maaz, ed., *Adolph Menzel: radikal real*, exhibition catalogue, Munich, 2008, p.56, no.24 (entry by Christiane Lange) – Hamburg, Dr. Moeller & Cie., *Adolph Menzel 1815-1905: Meister der Zeichnung*, 2013, unpaginated, under no.3, fig.1. – Klaus-Peter Möller, 'Christoph Wegmann: Der Bilderfex. Im imaginären Museum Theodor Fontanes.' [book review], *Mitteilungen der Theodor Fontane Gesellschaft*, No.59, December 2020, pp.67-69.

EXHIBITED: Berlin, Königliche National-Galerie, *Ausstellung von Werken Adolph von Menzels*, 1905, no.283 – Munich, Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung, *Adolph Menzel: radikal real*, 2008, no. 24.

Between 1845 and 1847 Menzel lived at 18 Schöneberger Strasse in Berlin, where his neighbours included the family of the lawyer Karl Anton Maercker (1803-1871), director of the Berlin Criminal Court and, from 1848, Justice Minister in the brief Prussian government of Rudolf von Auerswald. Menzel became friendly with the Maerckers, and produced a number of portraits - in oil, watercolour, chalk and pastel - of members of the family. (Frau Maercker also posed for both of the main figures in Menzel's genre painting *The Interruption (The Visit)*, painted between 1845 and 1846 and today in the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Karlsruhe.) In the spring of 1847 the artist moved to a new address, at 43 Ritterstrasse, and while he saw less of the Maercker family, he continued to occasionally produce drawings of them, as evidenced by the present sheet - a portrait of the daughter of Karl Anton Maercker - which is dated September 1848. In

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1850, the Maercker family moved to Halbertadt in Saxony-Anhalt, ending their close relationship with Menzel.

This charming watercolour by Menzel is a portrait of the Maercker's eldest daughter, Johanna (Hanna) Maercker (1839-1918), at the age of nine. Little else is known of Hanna Maercker, apart from her marriage to Julius Albert in 1857. A black chalk drawing by Menzel of the same young girl, though perhaps a year or two earlier in date, is in the collection of the Kupferstichkabinett in Berlin<sup>1</sup>.

A stylistically similar watercolour portrait of the Maercker's young son Max asleep, datable to around the same time as the present sheet, has appeared on the German art market in recent years<sup>2</sup>. Also comparable is a third watercolour of the Maercker children; a double portrait of Hanna and Max Maercker seated at a table, dated 1848<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Inv. SZ Menzel N 242; Keisch and Riemann-Reyher, *op.cit.*, pp.217-218, no.38 (where dated c.1847-1848); Anja Grebe, *Menzel, Maler der Moderne*, Berlin, 2014, p.139, also illustrated p.118. The dimensions of the drawing, executed in black and white chalk on brown paper, are 383 x 295 mm.

<sup>2</sup> Tschudi, *op.cit.*, pp.168-169, no.207; Anonymous sale, Berlin, Villa Grisebach, 3 June 2005, lot 2 (sold for €35,400); Hamburg, Dr. Moeller & Cie., *Adolph Menzel 1815-1905: Studien aus vier Jahrzehnten*, 2007, unpaginated, no.1; Hamburg, Dr. Moeller & Cie., *Adolph Menzel 1815-1905: Meister der Zeichnung*, 2013, unpaginated, no.3. A pencil portrait of the same young boy, dated 1848, is in a private collection in Hamburg (Heidi Ebertshaüser, *Adolph von Menzel: Das graphische werk*, Munich, 1976, Vol.II, p.945, as in the collection of Dr. Stubbe in Hamburg.)

<sup>3</sup> Tschudi, *op.cit.*, pp.168-169, no.205. The sheet measures 230 x 370 mm.