

MARTINUS RØRBYE

1803 DRAMMEN - COPENHAGEN 1848

*Grenadier of Prins Christian Frederick Regiment, 1830*

Watercolor, pen and Indian ink over traces of pencil. Signed and dated lower right:

*Rørby 1830*. Numbered verso: 8.

240 x 140 mm

PROVENANCE: Danish private collection – Jean-François Heim, Paris (2002) - Private collection, Hamburg

Martinus Rørbye ranks as a leading representative of the Danish Golden Age, an era which marked the apex of Danish painting and flourished at the same time as German Romanticism. A significant cross-fertilization of ideas occurred between the Copenhagen Academy and the two key centres of Romantic thought in Germany, namely the Hamburg and Dresden Academies. Rørbye entered the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen in 1819, studying under Christian August Lorentzen. In 1825 he joined the class of Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg and became his private pupil. He was known as an inveterate traveller, exploring Norway, touring extensively in Germany, France and Italy and travelling as far east as Greece and Turkey. He finally returned to Copenhagen in 1841.<sup>1</sup>

According to the late Kasper Monrad, Rørbye's watercolour is very probably a study for the two paintings, *Arrestbygningen ved råd- og domhuset* (The Prison in Copenhagen), 1831 (Fig. 1)<sup>2</sup> and *View from the Citadel Ramparts*, by *Moonlight* (Fig. 2).<sup>3</sup> Two pages from a sketchbook depicting studies of soldiers of different ranks are also related to the paintings.<sup>4</sup>



Fig. 1: *Arrestbygningen ved råd- og domhuset* (The Prison of Copenhagen), oil on canvas, 47,5 x 53,0 cm; 1831. Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen (inv. KMS206)



Fig. 2: *View from Kastellet Ramparts by Moonlight*, oil on canvas, 29,0 x 24,3 cm; 1835. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Eugene V. Thaw collection, New York (inv. 2007.164.7)

<sup>1</sup> On Martinus Rørbye, see Kasper Monrad, *Danish Painting, The Golden Age*, exhib. cat., The National Gallery, London 1984, p.179 – *Im Lichte Caspar David Friedrichs. Frühe Freilichtmalerei in Dänemark und Norddeutschland*, exhib. cat., Hamburger Kunsthalle 2000, p. 49 – Dirk Luckow and Dörte Zbikowski, exhib. cat., op. cit., Kiel 2005, pp. 266-7.

<sup>2</sup> 1831, oil on canvas, 47.5 x 63.0 cm. Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen (inv. KMS206). See *Martinus Rørbye – Det nære og det fjerne*, exhib. cat., Nivaagaards Malerisamling and Øregaard museum, 7 September 2014-18 January 2015, p. 27, fig. 19.

<sup>3</sup> 1835, oil on canvas, 29.0 x 24.3 cm. Metropolitan Museum of Art, Eugene V. Thaw collection, New York (inv. 2007.164.7). See *Danish Paintings of the Golden Age*, exhib. cat., Artemis Group, London 1999, no. 3, repr.

<sup>4</sup> Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen (inv. KKS14612/34 and inv. KKS14612/32). See Kasper Monrad, *Hverdagsbilleder*, Copenhagen 1989, p. 126.



actual size