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EST. 1817

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Jean-Pierre Granger (Paris 1779 - 1840)

Portrait of a Lady, bust length, wearing a blue feathered bonnet

Signed with monogram: 'JPG'

Oil on oval canvas

25 ½ x 17 ¾ in. (65 x 45 cm.)



Granger, a French painter who worked in the Neo-Classical style, is primarily known for portraits, although he also created history paintings, mythological scenes and religious works.

During his youth he worked closely with both Jacques-Louis David and also Jean-August-Dominique Ingres, who he competed with for the *Prix de Rome* and won in 1800. Ingres was not very happy coming second to Granger and accused David of using his influence on the jury. However, the artists later became close friends, and Ingres was godfather to Granger's daughter. A pencil drawing by Ingres of Granger is in the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra (inv. no. NGA 81.732, fig.1.)

While working in Rome for Lucien Bonaparte, Granger began a portrait of Bonaparte's wife, Maria Letizia, but finding it unsatisfactory he turned it into a painting of an anonymous lady of the court, for whom the model was Jeanne-Catherine Delaigle, who he later married (Louvre, Paris, fig.2). This sensitive portrait of his future wife, and the exquisitely beautiful handing of the present painting, both show Ingres' influence on the young Granger.

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Fig. 1: Jean-August-Dominique, *Portrait of Jean-Pierre Granger*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.



Fig. 2: Jean-Pierre Granger, *Portrait of Madame Granger*, Louvre, Paris.