

## HANS VOIGT STEFFENSEN

B. 1941

### 124. *Ballerina*, 1983 (*Ballerina*)

Oil on canvas, 59 x 47¼ in. (150 x 120 cm)

Signed lower right: H. Voigt Steffensen

PROVENANCE: Galerie Asbæk, Copenhagen 1983.

EXHIBITED: Galerie Asbæk, Copenhagen 1983, no. 38 (described as *Red Dancer*); The American Scandinavian Society of New York at Privatbanken Gallery, *Selections of Contemporary Danish Art*, 1989, no. 4 (described as *Red Dancer*).

LITERATURE: Sam Besekow (foreword), *Hans Voigt Steffensen*, Viborg 1991, p. 19, ill.; *Fogtdals Kunstleksikon*, vol. 12, Copenhagen 1992, p. 90, ill.

*The trumpets of color sound at full blast over Hans Voigt Steffensen's landscapes and pictures of popular life, which are not merely a coloristic game, but equally fanfares of enthusiasm and temperament. His painting is a declaration of love to life and beauty, to all the good in humanity. They are brimful of optimism and faith in the values of life . . .*

Thus the art critic Alex Steen starts his little book on the painter.

The fiery red-costumed ballerina with coal black hair and turquoise eyelids is caught in the midst of a pirouette in which she almost seems to be doing a split to the sound of exciting music. We can imagine the artist with his sketchpad somewhere in the darkness outside the dance floor and understand that he is preserving the experience to make pictures of later. Once at home in his studio in front of a canvas with tubes of paint at the ready, he chooses the brightest colors to fill the painting with the rhythms he remembers and the dancer as she takes her next floating steps.

S.L.