

OSCAR CARLSON

1840–1864

21. *From Dyrehavsbakken*, 1859

(*Fra Dyrehavsbakken*)

Oil on canvas, 16 x 21¼ in. (41 x 54 cm)

Signed and dated lower left: C.O. Carlson 1859

PROVENANCE: Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 393, 1979, lot 223, ill. p. 19; Arne Bruun Rasmussen, Auction 452, 1983, lot 37, ill. p. 27 (described as *Telte og boder på Dyrehavsbakken*).

EXHIBITED: Bruce Museum of Art and Science, Greenwich, Connecticut, and The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, New York, *Danish Paintings of the Nineteenth Century from the Collection of Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr.*, 2005, no. 10, ill.

Very few works are known by the talented Oscar Conrad Carlson, who is almost forgotten today because he was granted so few years in which to work. He left no great artistic production behind him. The Charlottenborg exhibitions note only six works, one of which, *En erklæring* (*A Declaration*) was exhibited after his death.

This picture of a corner of Dyrehavsbakken to the north of Copenhagen seems to portray the morning after a fair. The almost chaotic composition with a piling up of amusing and narrative details is kept in check by many parallel perpendicular lines. The viewer's gaze is led along the tree trunks up into the fresh green foliage, then brought down to the cooper sitting half asleep, and then to the poultry. The peaceful, somewhat lethargic atmosphere following a day of hectic activity is fondly and humorously reproduced.

With its array of color and fine light effects, this picture forms an elegant contribution to the large number of portrayals of Dyrehavsbakken in Danish art.

S.L.