

**Herman Vedel, Portrait of Agnete Zøylner Bendix, 1910, oil on canvas, 80 x 60 cm, signed lower right "HV 1910", framed (100 x 80 cm).**

Herman Albert Gude Vedel (1875 Copenhagen - 1948 Copenhagen) was Denmark's leading portrait painter in the first third of the 20th century. He attended the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts from 1894 to 1897 and the secessionist Kunstnernes Frie Studieskoler from 1896 to 1897. In 1909 he was awarded the Eckersberg Medal and in 1918 the Thorvaldsen Medal, Denmark's most important cultural award. He created portraits of many famous Danes and members of Copenhagen's upper class. His works can be found, for example, in the collection of the Danish National Gallery Statens Museum for Kunst.

A rediscovered painting by Vedel is the portrait offered here of Agnete Zøylner Bendix (1871-1943), who came from an Icelandic merchant family. Her father Johannes Zøylner (1838-1921), mother Harriet Clausen (1842-1922), the six children and four maids lived on one floor of the famous Jennow House in Copenhagen's prominent Christianshavn district. Agnete married the Jewish wholesaler and art collector William Bendix (1865-1937) in 1891. From 1919, they lived in Hegnholt Manor, 40 km north of Copenhagen. Her sister Ása married the famous Danish painter and designer Johann Rohde (1856-1935). Their son Tyge Zøylner (1894-1962) also became an important painter who lived most of his life in Rome, where he is buried in the Protestant cemetery.

In addition to Agnete's elegant appearance against a black background, the eye is drawn above all to the beautiful Art Nouveau brooch. The very valuable gold frame with Art Nouveau elements is a work of art in itself and deserves a special mention. It was made - as can be seen from an elaborate label on the inside of the frame - by Valdemar Tollof Severin Kleis (1845-1918), one of Copenhagen's most prominent frame makers, gilders and art dealers. The frame therefore appears to have been created as early as 1910 for the painted portrait of Agnete Zøylner Bendix.