

Basic Detail Report



Embroidered Mourning Picture - the de Roldos / Leonard Family

Primary Maker

Antoinette de Roldos

Medium

Silk chenille thread, watercolor, ink and graphite on silk

Description

A large rectangular mourning picture on a crisp and tightly woven silk ground panel. Dominating the scene is an imposing marble memorial, with an urn atop a heavy double-columned base and plinth, worked in ink and watercolor washes over faint graphite sketch lines. The large urn is inscribed "Sacred / to the / Memory / of," while the central panel is inscribed "JOSEPH DE ROLDOS / Who died in 1826...Aged 30 years, and of / ANTONIA DE ROLDOS. / Who died in April, 1822, Aged 21 Years." At the far right, a smaller memorial column topped with an urn and resting on a stepped plinth, also worked in ink and watercolor washes over graphite, is inscribed "Sacred / to the / Memory / of / Jno. LEONARD. / Who departed this / life May 4th 1836, / Aged 65 / R.I.P." A group of arched tombstones is scattered between both memorial stones. A charming background, painted in ink and watercolor washes, depicts rolling hills, scattered buildings, and white fencing amidst trees and shrubs, with the faint suggestion of mountains in the far distance. A large weeping willow on the left, arching over the main memorial stone, a dying willow near the smaller memorial stone at right, and the foreground grasses are all worked in silk chenille thread in dark green, olive green, medium green, golden brown, russet, and pale tan in laid stitching. A clump of shrubbery at the far left and the bunches of leaves on the smaller dying willow tree appear to be worked in a gathered or looped laid stitch, creating depth and contrast with the smooth appearance of the plain laid stitching. The sky is rendered in pale watercolor washes, darkening towards the top of the scene.

Dimensions

Sight: 17.63 × 24.75 in. (44.8 × 62.9 cm)