



Rebecca (Newbold) Van Trump (1859—1935)

Child Dancing

60 x 30 inches

Oil on canvas

Signed lower right: R. Van Trump

PROVENANCE

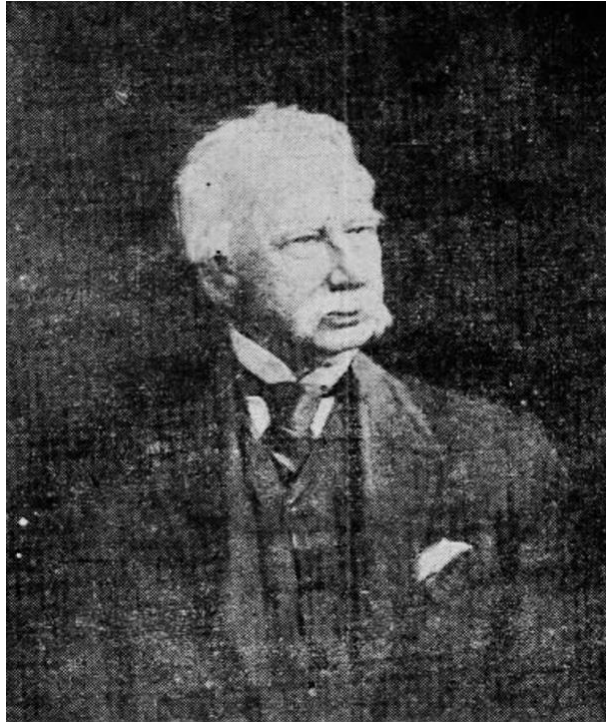
Bride Collection, North Carolina, until 2017

Rebecca (Newbold) Van Trump was a Philadelphia artist celebrated for her insightful portraits and skilled ivory miniatures. Born in the city, she began her artistic training at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Art, and later travelled to Paris where she entered the Académie Julian. She remained in France for several decades, studying with the acclaimed figure painter Gustave Boulanger (1824—1888) and the prominent art teacher Tony Robert-Fleury (1837—1911), and became professionally active in the Parisian art world.

Van Trump returned to Philadelphia by the 1880s, and opened a painting studio at 1520 Chestnut Street alongside several other prominent local artists. She soon established a reputation as a talented portraitist and miniaturist, winning many accolades in reviews for exhibitions in which she participated. She also held occasional private exhibitions and sales at her studio on Chestnut Street, which the public and her collectors eagerly awaited. Van Trump primarily remained in Philadelphia, with occasional sojourns to Paris or beach communities on the East Coast, where she supplemented her depictions of local Philadelphians with scenes from these other locales. Her reputation in Philadelphia progressively grew, with local newspapers reporting on her travels and exhibitions without fail. In 1902, the Philadelphia Hospital purchased from her a portrait of the acclaimed surgeon Dr. David Hayes Agnew, whose clinic was the subject of fellow Philadelphia artist Thomas Eakins' (1818—1892) *The Agnew Clinic*, in which he is shown performing a mastectomy operation in front of a gallery of students.



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Rebecca Van Trump, *Dr. Agnew*, 1902, Philadelphia Hospital.

Child Dancing is a wonderful example of the insightful portraits for which Van Trump is most acclaimed. Here, she sensitively captures the innocence and frivolity of a little girl's twirling dance as her companion plays the recorder behind her. Her direct gaze and sweeping arm gesture includes the viewer in her audience, for whom she delightedly performs while bathed in a bright spotlight. Her accompanist watches her while bathed in shadows offstage, his cheeks puffed out as he plays. This painting is a lovely representation of a playful childhood moment, the tenderness with which the artist depicts her subjects demonstrating why her portraits were so highly sought.

Van Trump served as a representative for successful Philadelphia women artists, not only exhibiting alongside her better-known male compatriots John Singer Sargent (1856—1925) and James McNeill Whistler (1834—1903) at the 1903 Philadelphia Academy of Fine



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Art exhibition, but also as a representative artist at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.