

Michel-Martin Drolling, *Portrait of Alix de Tournon-Simiane*

oil on canvas
29 by 23 ¼ inches (73.5 by 60 cm.)
signed and dated lower left: 'Drolling / 1847'

provenance: Private collection, France

exhibited: Paris Salon of 1848, probably no. 1323

note: Michel-Martin Drolling was born in Paris on March 7, 1786.¹ The son of the artist Martin Drolling, Michel-Martin became a pupil of his father, he later studied with Jacques Louis David in 1806. Drolling obtained the *Prix de Rome* in 1810, with his submission of the *Anger of Achilles* (Paris, Ecole National Superieure des Beaux-Arts). After his return from Rome, he exhibited in the Salon of 1817. In 1833 Drolling was elected a member of the Institute, and in 1837 became a professor of the École des Beaux-Arts. He obtained several important commissions, including the decoration of two ceilings in the Musée Charles X in the Louvre and the Musée d'Histoire at Versailles: the *Tours States-General* (1836) and the *Alexandria Convention* (1837). His genre scenes show that while his style was generally colder, he inherited his father's love of Dutch art and the use of thinly applied, porcelain-like paint, contrasting the effects of light and meticulous detail. Drolling died in Paris January 9, 1851.

¹ Biographical information taken from Marie-Claude Chaudonneret, *The Grove Dictionary of Art*.