Anne-Marguérite-Joséphine-Henriette Rouillé de Marigny, Baroness Hyde de Neuville
Title: Three Figure Studies; verso: boy in wooden shoes writing; seated girl sewing
Date: 1804
Medium: Black chalk with stumping, Conté crayon, and gray watercolor on beige paper
Dimensions: Sheet (irregular): 8 5/8 × 11 1/4 in. (21.9 × 28.6 cm)
Credit Line: Gift of Mark Emanuel
Object Number: 2018.42.1

Classification: DRAWINGS

Curatorial Remarks:
Born in Sancerre, France into an aristocratic family, Henriette, as she preferred to be called, received an education that probably included drawing lessons. At the fall of the Bastille in 1789, she and her father fled Paris for their country house, Château de L'Estang, where she began her artistic self-education. In 1794, during the height of the French Revolution, she married the handsome and hot-headed Jean Guillaume Hyde de Neuville, an ardent royalist who became involved in conspiracies to reinstate the Bourbon monarchy. In 1800, the couple was imprisoned and forced into hiding under aliases because of his role in the “English Conspiracy.” The baron was also condemned as an outlaw for his alleged participation in a plot to assassinate Napoleon. Fearing for her husband’s safety, the independent baroness attempted to disprove the charges. In 1805, she took her cause directly to Napoleon in a dramatic odyssey across Germany and Austria in pursuit of the French army, finally obtaining an audience with him in Vienna. Impressed with her courage, the Emperor allowed the couple to go into exile. They arrived in New York in 1807, where they stayed for seven years. During their second residency (1816–
22), when her husband served as French Minister Plenipotentiary and was made a baron, they lived primarily in Washington, DC, where Henriette became an influential presence and celebrated hostess. After her return to France, the baroness seems to have retired her pen and watercolors. John Quincy Adams described her in his diary as “a woman of excellent temper, amiable disposition . . . profuse charity, yet judicious economy and sound discretion.” Hyde de Neuville sketched these studies, her second earliest dated sheet, in her preferred early media of black chalk and gray watercolor. It already demonstrates her early humanitarian and sociological interests. The verso features a country boy wearing wooden shoes and a girl sewing, an occupation she frequently depicted.

Physical Description:
Studies of three seated, elderly male figures drawn in La Charité-sur-Loire, France.

Inscribed: Inscribed at lower right of center in brown ink: "La charité 1804"; verso inscribed at lower left of center: "Gouigot"; and at lower right of center: "Louisa"

Related Objects: