Primary Maker: Anne-Marguérite-Joséphine-Henriette Rouillé de Marigny, Baroness Hyde de Neuville
Title: Jean Guillaume Hyde de Neuville (1776–1857); verso: man with a powdered wig
Date: 1804–1806
Medium: Black, white, and red chalk and gray watercolor on beige paper; black chalk
Dimensions: Sheet (irregular): 7 7/8 in. × 6 in. (20 × 15.2 cm)
Credit Line: Gift of Mark Emanuel
Object Number: 2018.42.2

Classification: DRAWINGS

Curatorial Remarks:
As the artist progressed in her self-education, she began using the traditional eighteenth-century French media of three-colored chalks ("trois crayons") for this quickly rendered, but subtly delineated study of her husband. Wearing pince-nez and reading, the sitter can be identified by his facial features, such as the telltale cleft in his chin. Since he sports a high hat and an overcoat, the baroness may have drawn his likeness on the road. About the Artist 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.” Neuville used the traditional eighteenth-century French media of three-colored chalks (trois crayons) for this quickly rendered, but subtly delineated study of her husband, Jean Guillaume Hyde de Neuville. Wearing pince-nez and reading, the sitter can be identified by the telltale cleft in his chin and other facial features. Since he sports a high hat and an overcoat, the baroness may have drawn his likeness on the road during their travels.

Physical Description:
The recto features a three-quarter view of a seated man facing left and reading. He wears a top hat and pince-nez. The verso features a bust-length portrait of a man wearing a powdered wig.

Inscribed: Inscribed at upper right in graphite: “1” (encircled)
Related Objects: