Primary Maker: Joseph H. Davis
Title: James (1777-1852) and Sarah Clark Tuttle (1779-1840)
Date: 1836
Medium: Gouache, watercolor, graphite, and black ink with selective glazing on ivory paper
Dimensions: Overall: 9 3/4 × 14 3/4 in. (24.8 × 37.5 cm), irregular
Credit Line: Purchased from Elie Nadelman
Object Number: 1937.1715

Classification: DRAWINGS

Curatorial Remarks:
This object was once part of the folk art collection of Elie Nadelman (1882-1946), the avant-garde sculptor. From 1924 to 1934, Nadelman's collection was displayed in his Museum of Folk Arts, located in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. The Historical Society purchased Nadelman's entire collection in 1937. The itinerant painter Joseph H. Davis is best known for his portraits of married couples. His portrait of James and Sarah Clark Tuttle, who were married in 1799, features a cat that completes the family unit. His sitters are dressed in their most fashionable finery. They are surrounded by colorful furnishings in the exuberant “fancy” style of the early nineteenth century. Mr. Tuttle points to the open Holy Bible, while his wife holds a small book (probably for devotions) to stress her piety and literacy. The top hat and bowl of fruit that sit on the trompe l'oeil grained-painted table suggest abundance, and the framed picture above depicting Tuttle's sawmill suggests the source of the family's prosperity.
Physical Description:
Double portrait


Related Objects: