



Inv. no. B 317

VILHELM HAMMERSHØI (1864–1916)  
PORTRAIT OF THORA BENDIX, 1896  
OIL ON CANVAS

32 X 30 CM

Vilhelm Hammershøi's total oeuvre is estimated to number approximately 400 drawings and paintings, of which portraits account for approximately one quarter of the total.<sup>1</sup> The vast majority of his portraits are of people he knew personally, such as family, friends and fellow artists. In addition, he painted several self-portraits throughout his life.

On the rare occasions when Hammershøi painted portraits to order, the sitter was often a casual acquaintance, such as Thora Bendix. She was married to the art collector and musician Fritz Emil Bendix, whom Hammershøi had met through his patron, the art collector Alfred Bramsen, and his children.<sup>2</sup>

Hammershøi has done a close-up of Thora Bendix, highlighting her distinctive features: the dark eyebrows and prominent cheekbones. The most striking aspect is Thora Bendix's eyes, which are half

closed. She turns her gaze outwards, towards the viewer, but at the same time her focus seems directed towards her own, inner world.

The portrait in the David Collection is a preliminary study for the larger oil painting *Thora Bendix, née Anne Victoria Sundberg*.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Vilhelm Hammershøi, Thora Bendix, née Anne Victoria Sundberg, 1896, SMK, inv.no. KMS6693.*

<sup>2</sup> *Annette Rosenvold Hvidt and Gertrud Oelsner: Vilhelm Hammershøi: på sporet af det åbne billede, Copenhagen 2018, p. 438.*

<sup>3</sup> *Henrik Wivel: Hammershøi in The David Collection, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, p. 66.*

Published in:

*Fortegnelse over arbejder af Vilhelm Hammershøi*, [1],  
Kunstforeningen April 1916, København 1916, cat.no. 132, p. 13;  
Sophus Michaëlis and Alfred Bramsen: *Vilhelm Hammershøi.  
Kunstneren og hans værk*, København 1918, cat.no. 362, p. 112;  
Henrik Wivel: *Hammershøi i Davids Samling*, København 2017, pp.  
66-67;