

Dear [REDACTED]:

RE: Eastman Johnson, The Finishing Touch, oil on academy board, 19 7/8 x 12 inches. 14 1/2 inches. Initialed lower right: "E. J." I examined this painting at my home on May 20, 2010.

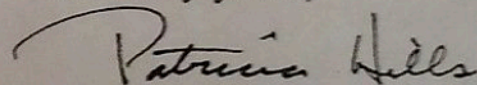
In my opinion the work is by the genre and portrait painter Jonathan Eastman Johnson (1824-1906), and I will include it in my forthcoming catalogue raisonné.

The work is a very slight oil sketch of a woman with a voluminous gown standing in front of a large mirror and fixing her hair. The tones are mostly in the red range with a grey green floor covering. Nevertheless, it has the characteristics of Johnson's work. The head and neck are delicately painted with some slight pencil outlining on the left of the neck and along the right and left sides of the dress. As is usual with Johnson, the painting's surface is uneven with the underpainting serving as the middle tones, for example, in the shadowed part of her neck. The areas around the figure are filled in with quick dry brushstrokes.

The painting was listed in the Checklist of Johnson's work compiled by John I. H. Baur and published in his exhibition catalogue, *An American Genre Painter: Eastman Johnson, 1824-1906* (Brooklyn Museum, 1940), No. 99. It was then owned by Thomas Finger. (I have no other information about Thomas Finger.)

I was not able to examine the painting with an ultraviolet light.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia Hills, PhD

Co-author: Eastman Johnson:  
Painting America, 1999

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cc: Michael Schapiro ✓