

# COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



Georgius Jacobus Johannes van Os  
(The Hague 1782 – 1861 Paris)

*Still life with shells and coral*

1813

signed and dated in pen and brown  
ink (lower left):

*GJJ Van Os. f. 1813.* On the verso,  
an inscription in pencil in the  
centre: *N° 2*

watercolour and black pencil

28.9 x 43.3 cm.;

11 3/8 x 17 in.

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## Provenance

(Probably) Sale, Amsterdam, Roos, de Vries and Brondgeest, 1 March 1819, box G, no. 4  
(for 275 Guilders to 'Brondgeest');

(Probably) Albertus Brondgeest (1786 – 1849), painter and art dealer, Amsterdam;

Anonymous sale, Amsterdam, Mak van Waay, 17 April 1975, lot 599;

With Galerie Talabardon & Gautier, Paris, until 2023, when acquired by the present owner.

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LONDON

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Georgius Jacobus Johannes van Os belonged to a great family of artists. Like his brother and sister, Pieter Gerardus van Os and Maria Margaretha van Os, Georgius trained with his father, the still life and marine painter Jan van Os (1744 – 1808). His mother, Susanna de la Croix, was the daughter of Pieter Frederik de la Croix (1709 – 1782), who was also a painter.

In Amsterdam in 1809, Georgius won the Felix Meritis Society's first prize for his still life watercolours: a field in which he excelled. After several stays in France in 1812 and 1814 – 1815, van Os finally settled in Paris where, having participated in the Salon since 1812 (when he was awarded a gold medal), he exhibited still lifes and landscapes – in oil as well as watercolour – regularly until 1848. His recognized talent also allowed him to work as a decorator for the Sèvres porcelain factory.

The present work is a perfect example of van Os' meticulous observation of nature from life. Each shell can be identified: one can observe a *conus ammiralis*, *voluta ebraea*, *Hysteroconcha dione*, and *Cardita crassicosta*, among others. The artist carefully prepared his works by making studies in the form of plates, as demonstrated by a sheet of shells acquired in 2003 by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (fig. 1).

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**Figure 1.** Georgius Jacobus Johannes van Os, *Five Shells*.  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York