# Basic Detail Report



PROCESSION DES RELIGIEUSES DE PORT ROYAL A LA FESTE DU S. SACREMENT.

## Procession des religieuses de Port-Royal à la feste du S. Sacrement (Procession of the Nuns of Port- Royal on the Feast of the Holy Sacrament)

**Date**
1709

**Primary Maker**
Louise-Magdeleine Horthemels

**Medium**
Engraving

**Description**
Louise-Magdeleine Horthemels belonged to a family of engravers, including her two sisters, her husband, and their son and three daughters. She engraved more than sixty plates in her lifetime, many of which were commissioned to reproduce works by well-known artists such as Charles Le Brun and Nicolas Lancret. These two prints are from a series of twenty-two views of the abbey of Port-Royal des Champs, describing its architecture in detail and recording the daily activities of its nuns. The abbey was founded in 1204 by the Benedictine order in the area of Chevreuse, southwest of Paris, but in 1625–26, the community moved to Paris proper. Forty years later, as a punishment for not agreeing to condemn Jansenism—a movement within the Catholic Church that favored personal freedom over monarchical and papal absolutism—most of the nuns were sent back to the original site, where they were ordered to remain and were denied the sacrament. In 1708, partly on account of Louis XIV's continued suspicion of the nuns, a papal bull decreed that the abbey be closed. In 1709, the nuns vacated the abbey, and the following year, its buildings were razed. The prints may have been created after a series of gouaches today in the collection of the Musée National du Château de Versailles that are attributed to another female artist, Madeleine de Boullogne. Horthemels's first published print appeared in 1707; thus, this series was produced toward the beginning of her career. The engraver herself subscribed to Cornelius Jansen's theology, as did Boullogne, as the latter is known to have frequently visited the abbey. Horthemels's copper plates were destroyed along with the abbey in 1710. (SOURCE: Alcauskas, INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, HONORED TRADITIONS, 2017)

**Dimensions**
Composition: 4 5/8 × 6 1/8 in. (11.7 × 15.6 cm) Sheet (trimmed to edges of sheet): 5 1/16 × 6 5/8 in. (12.9 × 16.8 cm)