



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

16th Century Engraving By Collaert After Stradan: Conspicilla Or The Invention Of Glasses

1 600 EUR



Signature : COLLAERT JAN II (1561-1628)

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 280 mm

Height : 213 mm

Description

Plate 15 from the Nova Reperta series.

State 2/4 with the number 15 in the lower left corner to the address of Philippe Galle, before its replacement by that of Johannes Galle.

(The series was published for the first time around 1591 by Philippe Galle in Antwerp and was successively republished by Karel de Mallery, after 1612, Theodoor Galle, before 1636 and Johannes Galle before 1677.)

Very beautiful proof on laid paper watermarked with double C crowned, the angles reinforced.

ca.1591

New Hollstein: 337

The Nova Reperta series, i.e. new discoveries (or inventions), illustrates certain notable discoveries

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and inventions for Europe at the end of the 16th century. These repertae are highlighted and "situation" by Stradan in a lively and dramatic way, according to the advice given by humanist pedagogues like Erasmus and of which Jean-Claude Margolin gives an analysis in his: "About Stradan's Nova reperta" in "Aesthetics of novelty in the Renaissance", Franck Lessay and François Laroque (dir.), Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle Collection, Paris, 2001 "Here it is a Venetian shop, run by an eyeglass merchant, in front of which potential customers linger, trying this relatively new object (...) We cannot help but note multiple features which make this scene, lively and full of wit, a true satire of these glass discs connected by a pince-nez, a satire that is easy to extend to the visually impaired who believe they find in this object a remedy for their failing eyesight. We just have to look, through our eyes, of course, and with our psychic glasses, it that is to say with our ingenium, the characters of the street scene, merchants, passers-by, or immobilized man busy trying to read a paper, all decked out in glasses, to realize that we are not only dealing with a didactic illustration, as in the plates of the future Encyclopédie by Diderot and d'Alembert. Moreover, one only has to examine the Latin phrase, engraved under the drawing: it is undoubtedly devoid of the satirical irony which pierces the drawing; but beneath its appearance as an objective or neutral proposition, it does not assign any value or therapeutic function to glasses; she is content with a simple observation: *Inventa conspicilla sunt, quae luminum obscuriores detegunt caligines*, that is to say: "Glasses were invented, which reveal the too dark fogs of the eyes"(...) Thus, It is not said that glasses allow you to see better or correct faulty eyesight, but simply to reveal your faults. This also corresponded to reality, as the spectacle lenses, even manufactured on the island of Murano, were of poor optical quality."

Copper width: 270.00

Copper height: 200.00

Leaf width: 280.00

Leaf height: 213.00