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Victor-jean Nicolle - View Of The Cloisters Of The Duomo, Palermo



3 000 EUR

Signature : VICTOR-JEAN NICOLLE (1754-1826)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Width : 13.5

Height : 19

Description

VICTOR-JEAN NICOLLE (1754-1826) A
VIEW OF THE CLOISTERS OF THE DUOMO,
PALERMO Signed l.r. v nicolle fPen & ink with
watercolour 19 x 13.5 cm PROVENANCE: A.
Ernest-Moreau, his sale, Paris, 31.03-01.4.1924,
lot 122; Anonymous sale, Sotheby's,
London, 22.04.1998, lot 119; Anonymous sale,
Christie's, South Kensington, 12.12.2003, lot
466; William L. Bernhard & Catherine Cahill,
Southampton, New York (until 2024) Victor-Jean
Nicolle trained in Paris at the École Royale
Gratuite de Dessin, the free drawing school
founded in in Paris by Jean-Jacques Bachelier
(1724-1806). Nicolle won the Grand Prix de
Perspective in 1771 and, after graduating, he
entered the architectural studio of Louis François
Petit-Radel (1739-1806). Under the First Empire,

Dealer

Nonesuch Gallery

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Radel became Inspector General of civil buildings, a role with considerable responsibility, and his architectural legacy includes the Abbatoirs Roule, one of the five monumental slaughterhouses of Paris built under Napoleon I, among other accomplishments. Nicolle's architectural specialism and training was put to great use during his lengthy sojourns in Rome, which appear to have been between 1787-1798 and 1806-1811. Often filled with anecdotal detail, Nicolle's drawings from his Italian period are almost all rigorously accurate in their topography. They are, as such, important documentary evidence of the appearance of the sites he visited, many of which have changed significantly over the subsequent centuries. Like many artists in Rome before him, Nicolle was also inspired by Hubert Robert and Giovanni Battista Piranesi's celebrated capricci, and drew a number of his own imagined landscapes, subterranean scenes and classical interiors, demonstrating an originality that comparatively few of his contemporaries attained. Nicolle would generally make his topographical drawings 'sur le motif' in pen and ink, which he would then finish with watercolour in his studio. Best known for his Roman views, he also produced drawings of other cities in Italy, including Bologna, Venice, Verona, Naples and Florence, while in France he made numerous studies of Paris and its environs. Although Nicolle never exhibited at the Salons, his reputation as a topographical artist was such that, in 1810, he received a commission from Napoleon himself for fifty watercolour views of the principal monuments of Paris, with this group intended as a wedding present for the Empress Marie-Louise. These drawings can now be found, somewhat ironically, at Marie-Louise's 'predecessor', the Empress Josephine's former residence of Malmaison. Other significant groups of drawings by Nicolle are today in the Louvre, the Musée Carnavalet and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, as well as the museums of Rouen and Lille.

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