PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Austrian School Circa 1900, Academic Study Of A Male Nude



290 EUR

Signature : ÉCOLE AUTRICHIENNE vers 1900

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 15,5 cm

Height : 30 cm

Description

AUSTRIAN SCHOOL about 1900ACADEMIC STUDY OF A MALE NUDEAUSTRIAN SCHOOL about 1900Charcoal and white chalk on toned paper15.5 x 30 cm / 6.1 x 11.8 inches, with frame 28 x 42.5 cm / 11 x 16.5 inchesAt the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, academic drawing in Austria underwent an important transitional phase. Whereas in previous decades academic practice had remained deeply rooted in the tradition of classicism, with its strict canons and idealized forms, by around 1900 a different approach was taking hold in the studios. Attention shifted from the abstract ideal of antiquity to direct observation of the model, from the universal canon to the individual features of the human body.This study of the nude vividly illustrates such a transformation.

Dealer

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The artist employs a technique akin to the classical trois crayons, but in a simplified form -- relying only on two means: black chalk or charcoal for lines and shadows, and fine white chalk hatching for highlights. The grey toned paper serves as the "middle tone," creating a harmonious balance between light and shade. This choice was not accidental: it reflects a departure from decorative polychromy and a search for greater immediacy, in line with the naturalistic aspirations of the era.The figure is depicted without idealization -- a real model with his own distinctive features. Soft blending in the shadows, sharp highlights on the chest and shoulders, the restrained treatment of the face with its characteristic moustache -- all these elements reveal an attention to the individual rather than to an abstract type. Unlike the classical academic poses with their rhetorical emphasis, here we encounter a more natural, untheatrical stance.Thus, the drawing stands as a characteristic example of the Austrian academic school at the turn of the century, moving away from the strict canons of classicism toward naturalism, where direct observation and the search for expressiveness in the very truth of the body became paramount.PROVENANCEFrance, private collection