Dietrich Attr. - Hercules With A Club, Male Nude Sanguine Study



600 EUR

Signature : CHRISTIAN WILHELM ERNST DIETRICH, attributed

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 29 cm

Height : 38 cm

Description

CHRISTIAN WILHELM ERNST DIETRICH, attributedSTUDY OF HERCULES WITH A CLUBCHRISTIAN WILHELM ERNST DIETRICH, attributedWeimar, 1712 - 1774 DresdenSanguine on paper38 × 29 cm / 15 × 11.4 inchesunframedPROVENANCEAmsterdam, private collectionThe drawing depicts a male nude figure, most likely Hercules holding a club, executed in sanguine on paper. The powerful twist of the body, the tense musculature of the back, the energetic movement of the arm, and the distinctly heroic physical type all suggest a connection with scenes representing the Labours of Hercules. In this respect, the sheet is particularly interesting to compare with autograph drawings by Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich, such as Herkules kämpft mit der Hydra in the

Dealer

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Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt and Herkules im Kampfe mit dem Nemäischen Löwen in the Graphische Sammlung of the Städel Museum in Frankfurt am Main. These sheets, likewise executed in sanguine, display a closely related treatment of the male body, an animated contour, vigorous background hatching, and a characteristic interest in heroic figures shown in moments of physical tension and dramatic movement.Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich (1712-1774), one of the most original German artists of the eighteenth century, became renowned for his extraordinary ability to work in the manner of masters from different schools and periods. His paintings and drawings often consciously imitate Dutch, Italian, or French artistic traditions, to the extent that Dietrich's works may at times be mistaken for those of artists from entirely different circles. It is precisely this remarkable artistic flexibility that makes his oeuvre both challenging and particularly rewarding from the perspective of attribution. The present sheet, with its combination of academic strength, Baroque energy, and free handling of sanguine, may therefore be regarded as a work attributed to Dietrich, or alternatively as the production of an artist working in close proximity to his graphic manner.