



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,  
attributed  
STUDY OF HERCULES WITH A  
CLUB  
CHRISTIAN WILHELM ERNST  
DIETRICH, attributed  
Weimar, 1712 - 1774  
Dresden  
Sanguine on paper  
38 × 29 cm / 15 × 11.4  
inches  
unframed  
PROVENANCE  
Amsterdam,  
private collection  
The 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.