Luigi Loir (1845-1916) - Draft Calendar For The Year 1882 - Original Gouache



6 000 EUR

Signature : Luigi Loir (1845-1916)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 30,5 cm

Height : 24 cm

Description

Original maquette intended for the publication of a calendar for the year 1882, the date integrated at the top of the composition within a large heraldic cartouche. This project is the work of Luigi Loir, before his full recognition as a Parisian salon painter, later celebrated for his genre scenes and urban landscapes of the capital. During this period, Loir was also active as an illustrator and miniaturist. He collaborated with several major Parisian printing houses, notably Testu & Massin and Ferdinand Champenois, specializing in the production of chromolithographs, advertising images, and decorative calendars. This gouache is a prime example of this professional activity, combining original creation with preparation for publication. The composition depicts a group of young children dressed in costumes inspired by

Dealer

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antiquity, each bearing clearly visible heraldic elements on their clothing and crests. The meticulous rendering of the fabrics, embroidery, feathers, and coats of arms testifies to true miniature work. The composition is arranged around a central cartouche reserved for the calendar, framed by a carefully composed architectural and floral motif. This refined execution is characteristic of Luigi Loir's early graphic work: precise lines, attention to detail, balanced composition, and excellent legibility. These qualities foreshadow his later development into a renowned painter, exhibiting in Parisian salons. The Testu & Massin printing house, a Parisian publisher of chromolithographs and advertising cards, which employed Loir, was acquired in 1879 by Ferdinand Champenois, a major figure in color printing in Paris. This historical context sheds light on the original purpose of this gouache. To date, no chromolithographic edition corresponding to this specific project is known, giving this work a unique character. Due to its quality, integrated dating, and state of preservation, this document constitutes a rare testimony to the preparatory work of an illustrator at the end of the 19th century. Condition and FramingThe work is in very good condition. However, there are a few visible stains on the composition; it is advisable to refer carefully to the photographs, which form an integral part of the description. The frame, although contemporary, has been crafted with particular care and refinement, custom-made according to the highest standards of the art. The work is mounted on pH-neutral board, with appropriate conservation materials, acid-free glue, and UV-resistant glass, ensuring optimal and lasting protection. Composition dimensions : W: 30.5 x H: 24 cmFrame dimensions: W: 58 x H: 46 cm