



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

French Neoclassical School C.1820 - Academic Male Nude As Charon, Graphite



950 EUR

Signature : ÉCOLE NÉOCLASSIQUE FRANÇAISE, VERS
1820

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 42 cm

Height : 52 cm

Description

FRENCH NEOCLASSICAL SCHOOL, CIRCA
1820 ACADEMIC MALE NUDE IN THE
GUISE OF CHARON Graphite on paper Sheet
size: 54 × 42 cm / 21.3 × 16.5 in With frame: 77 ×
65 cm / 30.3 × 25.6 in Wooden frame from the
1930s Museum-style mount One of the most
enduring poses in the French academic tradition
was that of Charon, the mythological ferryman of
the Underworld, represented leaning on a long
pole. This composition entered academic practice
in the mid-eighteenth century, following Pierre
Subleyras's celebrated painting Charon Ferrying
Souls Across the Styx, now in the Louvre. From
that moment onward, the pose became a standard
exercise in the teaching of life drawing, allowing
students to study the complex relationship
between balance, contrapposto and muscular

Dealer

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tension. The present drawing demonstrates precisely these qualities: the leaning stance places particular emphasis on the musculature of the lower body and the weight-bearing leg, while the subtle turn of the torso creates a convincing sense of movement within an otherwise static pose. Like many French academies of the Restoration period, the drawing combines the timeless language of classical art with the careful observation of a contemporary model, whose youthful features and fashionable hairstyle firmly anchor the work in the 1820s.