



Philibert Benoît Delarue - Antique Scene - Wash Drawing - 18th Century

700 EUR



Signature : DELARUE Philibert Benoît (1718 - 1780, France)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 42,5 cm à vue / 59,5 cm encadré

Height : 22,5 cm à vue / 45,5 cm encadré

Description

This sheet presents a large, animated composition, typical of the neoclassical repertoire favored by Delarue, depicting an assembly of figures draped in classical style within a solemn architectural setting punctuated by columns and pilasters. In the foreground, several male and female figures are shown kneeling, in an attitude of supplication or waiting, turned towards a standing male figure on the left, dressed in a priest's surplice. He holds a tray and a branch with which he appears to be blessing the kneeling figures. On the right, a dense crowd of figures--men, women, and children--watches the scene, their gazes directed towards the center of the action. Among them stands out a draped male figure, lending the whole a ritualistic or solemn character. In the background, on the left, are other

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religious figures, one of whom, kneeling, holds a candle. The wash technique, with its subtle gradations of gray, its precise and energetic ink lines, and the masterful rendering of crowds, is entirely in keeping with Delarue's style: a highly accomplished drawing, probably a preparatory study for a painted or engraved composition.

Condition: Overall good. There is a small tear in the paper support towards the lower left, as well as a few localized yellowish stains. The rest of the sheet is sound, without significant foxing or major tears. The work is presented matted and under glass, in a varnished wooden frame, in good condition. This drawing is attributed to Philibert Benoît Delarue, whose characteristic style and taste for neoclassical subjects are readily apparent. Delarue was also known as a painter of battles and military subjects. A student of Charles Parrocel, he won second prize from the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture in 1748, which accepted him as a member in 1753. His career was short, as he suffered from mental health problems that forced him to stop painting. His works are all the more rare for being few in number. This work can be viewed at the gallery (07240). Shipping: please contact us for shipping costs within France and internationally.