



Antonio Canova (1757-1822) - Monumental Study Of A Male Nude, Circa 1790



8 500 EUR

Signature : Antonio Canova (1757-1822)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Paper

Width : 33.5

Height : 49

Description

This remarkable study of a male nude, executed in pen, ink and pencil, fully reflects the graphic practice of Antonio Canova, one of the leading figures of European Neoclassicism.

Depicted standing in a subtle contrapposto, the figure extends its arms in a gesture that is both restrained and expressive. The drawing is distinguished by a remarkable economy of means: the musculature is suggested through a controlled and continuous line, revealing Canova's exceptional ability to translate sculptural thinking into graphic form.

The sheet is unsigned -- as is often the case with Canova's academic studies -- and bears an old annotation at the upper left, attesting to its history.

This drawing belongs to a well-defined corpus of

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male nude studies by the artist and may be closely compared to a sheet preserved in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, executed in the same technique and of similar dimensions.

What is particularly striking here is the exceptional scale of the drawing. Far larger than typical studio studies, it gives the figure a rare monumentality on paper, reinforced by the sobriety of the composition, entirely focused on the idealized human form.

Both rigorous and alive, this drawing offers a particularly compelling example of Canova's graphic work, situated between academic study and autonomous work of art.