



Giovan Battista Piranesi | Vases, Candelabra, Memorial Stones, Sarcophagi, Tripods, Oil Lamps..

3 200 EUR

Signature : GIOVAN BATTISTA PIRANESI

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 60

Height : 80



Description

GIOVAN BATTISTA PIRANESI | Vases, candelabra, memorial stones, sarcophagi, tripods, oil lamps and ancient ornaments Rome, c. 1780. 10 plates, etching and engraving on large-format laid paper. Published in Rome between 1778 and 1780, the collection 'Vases, candelabra, memorial stones, sarcophagi, tripods, oil lamps and ancient ornaments' represents the spiritual and artistic legacy of Giovanni Battista Piranesi. Comprising 112 large-format plates, the work constitutes one of the pillars of European Neoclassical culture, skilfully blending archaeological rigour with visionary invention. Piranesi, who also worked as a restorer and dealer in his workshop at Palazzo Tomati, conceived this series with a dual purpose: on the one hand, it served as a luxurious sales catalogue for the wealthy travellers of the Grand

Dealer

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Tour; on the other, it represented a theoretical manifesto aimed at celebrating the inexhaustible imagination of Roman ornamentation in contrast to the Greek rigour championed by Winckelmann. Many of the objects depicted were manipulated or augmented by the artist himself, who combined ancient fragments with modern elements to create models of aesthetic 'perfection'. Stylistically, the engravings are distinguished by a dramatic use of chiaroscuro and an almost obsessive technical precision, which lends the objects a monumental solemnity. The work had a formidable impact on the taste of the era, directly influencing the development of the Empire style and Regency taste in England. Each plate often bears a dedication to prominent figures of the time, such as the collector William Beckford, highlighting the role of art as an instrument of cultural diplomacy. Following Giovanni Battista's death in 1778, the publication was completed and managed by his son Francesco Piranesi. This historical circumstance often leads to confusion in bibliographical attributions and auction catalogues, where the prints are sometimes attributed to the son, despite the fact that the conception and the bulk of the execution were the work of his father's masterful hand. Today, these etchings are held in major institutions worldwide, bearing witness to a heritage that has shaped the Western imagination of antiquity. Also available individually for EUR400 including frame.

list of the ten plates from the series "Vases, Candelabra, Cippi, Sarcophagi, Tripods, Lamps, and Ancient Ornaments" by Giovanni Battista Piranesi.

Calyx Vase with Acanthus Leaves
Dedication: To Mr. William Beckford, English Knight.
Description: Ancient marble vase with a fluted body and decorated rim, supported by a slender stem.

Quadrangular Base with Female Figures
Dedication: To Mr. John Taylor.
Description: Marble altar or base featuring bas-reliefs of classical figures standing within niches.

Vase with Winged Lion Base (Villa

Albani)Dedication: To Mr. William Beckford,
English Knight.Description: A monumental vase
resting on a base composed of two opposing
winged chimeras or lions.Rhyton (Horn-shaped
Vase) on Circular BaseDedication: To His
Excellence the Earl of Lincoln.Description: An
unusual drinking-horn shaped vase ending in an
animal head, resting on an ornamented cylindrical
altar.Decorated Candelabrum or
CippusDedication: To Mr. William Beckford,
English Knight.Description: Richly carved
vertical element with festoons, masks, and floral
motifs.Bottom Row (from left to right) Cippus
with Inscription and Scroll SupportDedication:
To Sir Thomas Palmer.Description: Funerary
monument or cippus characterized by a large
scroll-shaped bracket (volute) supporting the
engraved element.Lidded Vase with Mythological
ScenesDedication: To Sir Thomas
Palmer.Description: Large vase with scroll
handles and a body decorated with relief figures,
complete with a domed lid.Vase with Bucrania
(Bull Heads)Dedication: Dedicated to His
Excellence Lord Fortrose.Description: Ancient
vase from the collection of Cardinal Alessandro
Albani, adorned with bull heads and flower
festoons.Vase on Tripod (Villa Lante)Dedication:
To Mr. John Taylor.Description: Elegant marble
vase supported by a tripod with feline legs, a
masterpiece of Neoclassical design.Vase with
Satyrs and Vine TendrilsDedication: To Mr.
William Constable, Lover of Fine
Arts.Description: Large vase decorated with a
figure frieze and handles emerging from lower
volutes.Translated with DeepL.com (free version)