Harlequin Figure, Poetic Study / Andre Bertrand (1929-2003) / Watercolor



350 EUR

Signature : ANDRÉ BERTRAND (1929-2003)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Water color

Description

André Bertran (1929-2003)Harlequin - Watercolor on paper signed lower right 33.5 x 48 cm on view 56 x 71 cm with frame This delicate work by André Bertran finely illustrates one of his favorite themes: the figure of the theatrical character, here embodied by an enigmatic yet introspective Harlequin. The artist deliberately moves away from the traditional representation of the variegated costume to offer a more refined and poetic vision, dominated by subtle, harmonious green tones. The sensitive treatment of the face reveals Bertran's mastery of the art of portraiture. The look, direct and calm, establishes an almost silent relationship with the viewer, while watercolor's own play on transparency adds lightness and depth. The diffuse strokes in the background, punctuated by spherical shapes

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evoking decorative or symbolic elements, reinforce the dreamlike atmosphere of the composition. The balance between precision of drawing and freedom of medium lends this work a singular presence, characteristic of André Bertran's work in the second half of the 20th century. It also bears witness to his interest in timeless figures and archetypes derived from theater and commedia dell'arte.André Bertran (1929-2003) André Bertran, born in Nancy in 1929, was a French painter, draughtsman, engraver and above all poster artist, whose activity was fully in keeping with the artistic and graphic landscape of the second half of the 20th century. Trained in drawing in a rigorous academic tradition, he developed great mastery of the human figure very early on. This technical solidity would enable him to pursue a dual career: on the one hand as a painter and watercolorist, and on the other as a poster designer, a field in which he achieved significant recognition. From the 1950s to the 1970s, Bertran produced numerous cultural and advertising posters, actively participating in the golden age of the illustrated poster in France. His work in this field is distinguished by great legibility, an assertive sense of composition and elegant stylization of figures. This activity made a major contribution to his reputation and distribution, well beyond the strict circle of galleries. Parallel to this, he developed a coherent and personal body of painting, centered on the human figure. His preferred subjects - harlequins, theatrical figures, female portraits - reflect a search for interiority and a psychological approach to the model. Contrary to a decorative vision, her figures are often silent, almost suspended, with a deliberately nuanced palette and uncluttered backgrounds. Her style, figurative, lies at the crossroads of realism and discreet symbolism, sometimes with a slightly dreamlike atmosphere. The influence of his work as a poster artist can be seen: clarity of form, visual efficiency, rigorous construction of the image. Bertran exhibits regularly in France,

notably in Paris, and abroad (Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, USA). He received several awards, including the Prix de Versailles in 1971, and gained institutional recognition with a retrospective exhibition in 1986 at the Château de Val. He continued to work until the end of his life, passing away in 2003. Today, his work is divided between paintings, watercolors, lithographs and posters, the latter constituting an important part of his production and distribution.