



PROANTIC
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Adolphe-léon Willette (1857-1926), Cartoon Of The Bullier Ball, Ink And Pencil



1 000 EUR

Signature : Adolphe-Léon Willette (1857-1926)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Paper

Width : 32 cm (avec cadre : 43 cm)

Height : 41,5 cm (avec cadre : 53 cm)

Description

Adolphe-Léon Willette (1857-1926) was a painter, illustrator, poster artist, lithographer and caricaturist. Cabanel's student, but quickly rejected all forms of academicism. An emblematic figure of Montmartre bohemia, much more a draftsman than a painter, he soon abandoned painting in favor of drawing. His graphic work is considerable and extremely diversified. From advertising commissions to highly personal caricatures from poetry to irony, demonstrating a constant social commitment, a witness to the transformations of his time, he contributed to numerous newspapers such as the *Courrier français* and above all *L'Assiette aubeurre*. The Musée d'Art et d'Histoire Louis-Senlecq in L'Isle-Adam devoted a retrospective to him from June to September

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2014, accompanied by a catalog. "Willette's countless cartoons will remain undoubtedly his greatest claim to fame. They charmed an entire generation by their alert grace, their satirical gaiety but without sourness (...)", said Léon Deshairs in 1926. The Bal Bullier, opened in 1847, closed for good in 1940 and destroyed. Located at 31 avenue de l'Observatoire in Paris, it bears the name of its founder, François Bullier, who acquired the land. The whole of Paris would gather there to dance, dress up and have fun. The artists, sculptors and painters of Montparnasse held their famous annual bal of the Horde. We can assume that Willette's metaphorical representation of the participants as "black" (slang for drunk). The cancan is danced at the Bullier ball, as the young woman on the left. Students and artists mingled with a more bourgeois audience, as seen here in Willette's differentiation of the costumes worn by the protagonists. Willette's whimsical quatrain plays on the pronunciation of words of words, notably "fiers" which becomes "fié" and Latin which becomes "lapin" by dancers who are "black". The drawing is signed and dedicated to "Mr Borde/mon beau et digne ami/ A. Willette"