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Victor-jean Nicolle - View Of The Collisée In Rome - Watercolor Drawing Late 18th Century



3 200 EUR

Signature : Victor-Jean Nicolle

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 59,5cm

Height : 50,5cm

Description

View of the Colosseum depicted in its entirety, framed to emphasize the monumentality of the Flavian amphitheater and the ruined state it was in at the end of the XVIIIe century. The foreground shows the strata of the ground and the remains of ancient structures, evoking the excavations and archaeological observations then in full swing. The scene is animated by small figures to present the scale. On the right, the Constantine triumphal arch. Watercolor and ink on paper Signed below: J. V. Nicolle, for Victor-Jean Nicolle (1754-1826). Late 18th century, before 1798. Victor-Jean Nicolle was a French draftsman and watercolorist, born in Paris in 1754 and died in 1826. He studied at the École royale gratuite de dessin, where he won first prize for perspective in 1771, a distinction

Dealer

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that steered his career towards architectural representation. He then continued his training in the studio of architect Louis-François Petit-Radel, where he discovered the work of Piranesi. This work is fully in keeping with the Roman production of Victor-Jean Nicolle, an artist renowned for his topographical views and architectural studies produced during his stays in Italy, mainly in Rome (1787-1798 and 1806-1811). The signature "J. V. Nicolle", well attested but less frequent than "V. J. Nicolle", appears notably in works executed during his first stay in Rome (1787-1798). It is mostly found on technical sheets, surveys or field studies - which corresponds perfectly to the analytical character of this view of the Colosseum. The precision of the drawing, the sobriety of the coloring and the attention paid to structural details testify to Nicolle's training as an architect and his interest in nascent archaeology. The slightly off-center framing allows us to integrate the nearby Arch of Constantine, reinforcing the composition's topographical dimension. The oval-shaped cut-out drawing is inserted into a watercolor pass, reducing the work to a rectangular shape. It is presented in an Empire period palmettes frame, gilded with gold leaf. Oval dimensions: 34.7x25.2cm Total dimensions with frame: 59.5x50.5cm