



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Toyokuni III Utagawa (1786-1865) "geisha" Oban Tate-e Woodblock Print



220 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Paper

Description

UTAGAWA Toyokuni III (1786-1865) "Geisha"
Oban tate-e print Japanese print signed by
Utagawa Toyokuni III (Utagawa Kunisada)
(1786-1865) Oban Tate-e depicting a scene with a
geisha. Dimensions of the frame: 57.5 x 43.5 cm
of the print: 36.5 x 24.5 cm. Utagawa Kunisada or
Utagawa Toyokuni III (1786-1865) Born in Edo,
he was taken on as an apprentice around 1800 by
one of the greatest masters of woodblock
printing, Toyokuni. He began by creating prints of
actors, a specialty of the Utagawa school. In
1844-1845, Utagawa Kunisada changed his artist
name, adopting his master's name, Toyokuni, and
thus became Toyokuni III (Toyokuni II being
Utagawa Toyoshige, another of Toyokuni's
students, who became head of the school after
Toyokuni's death in 1825). During this transitional

Dealer

Espaces et Formes

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Mobile : +33 769478447

Paris 75018

year, Utagawa Kunisada signed many of his prints "Kunisada, soon to be Toyokuni II," a deliberate affront to Toyoshige, whom he believed had usurped the rightful position. He occasionally collaborated with Hiroshige and Kuniyoshi on series of prints produced in the 1840s and 1850s, at a time when Japan was undergoing rapid expansion and woodblock prints were in high demand. At the time this print was created, he was at the peak of his career and dominated the market for prints featuring kabuki actors. He died after his two major contemporaries, Hiroshige and Kuniyoshi, who passed away in 1858 and 1861, respectively. His final years were marked by a resurgence in quality: his series were far more inspired and stood out from most of his earlier mass-produced works. He died in Edo after training several students, including Toyohara Kunichika and Utagawa Kunisada II.