



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Flemish Or Dutch School - Late 18th Century - 48 X 40 Cm - Drinkers At An Inn



350 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Description

Black chalk and stump on laid paper, with a few later graphic additions. The sheet, which was formerly mounted on a thicker backing, is presented in an elegant carved and gilded wooden frame. Visible dimensions: 18 x 28 cm. With frame: 48 x 40 cm. The scene depicts five peasants gathered around a barrel serving as a table, sharing drinks and a meal in the familiar atmosphere of an inn. Through the simplicity of his technique and the subtlety of his observation, the artist captures, with a remarkable economy of lines, the full spontaneity of the characters' expressions and postures. The treatment of form, built up with broad, blended strokes enhanced by more incisive hatching, is fully in keeping with the graphic tradition of Flemish and Dutch genre scenes. The composition naturally evokes the

Dealer

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works of David Teniers the Younger, Adriaen van Ostade, and Egbert van Heemskerck, whose depictions of taverns and peasants became widely circulated throughout Europe as early as the 17th century. However, to the best of our knowledge, this drawing is not a direct reproduction of a specifically cataloged composition. It is more a personal reinterpretation drawing on this pictorial tradition than a mere slavish copy. The execution reveals a particularly sure hand. The faces, rendered through a succession of highly nuanced tones, possess genuine psychological depth; the hands--which are difficult to depict in this type of subject--are accurately rendered, while the drapery retains great fluidity despite the economy of the means employed. This keen sense of observation suggests an artist thoroughly familiar with the language of the Northern masters. Examination of the sheet reveals old laid paper, now lined, as well as a few graphite corrections visible under raking light. These interventions, likely made after the drawing was completed, primarily concern certain outlines and specific details and in no way call into question the quality or age of the composition. This work perfectly illustrates the taste, still very much alive at the end of the 18th century, for popular scenes inspired by the Golden Age of Dutch painting. Many artists, particularly in the French, Flemish, and German schools, studied the compositions of Teniers and Van Ostade at that time, both for their narrative richness and for their exceptional mastery of chiaroscuro. In good overall condition. A few foxing spots, minimal wear, and signs of age consistent with the sheet's antiquity. Thanks to its quality of execution, its antique laid paper, and its refined technique combining black chalk, stump, and graphic retouching, this sheet transcends the status of a mere decorative copy. It stands as a testament to a talented artist who intelligently assimilated the legacy of the great Flemish masters of genre painting. The expressiveness of the figures, the subtlety of the modeling, and the balance of the composition

make this a particularly appealing work for connoisseurs of antique drawings.