



Architecture - Piranesi



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Description

Original print made around 1800-1806. By Francesco Piranesi. Light water stains on the right-hand margin, far from the subject. Very good condition. Sheet size: 75.5 x 56 cm. Engraving size: 58 x 45 cm. Antique original engraving from 1800-1806. Large plate illustrating architectural elements drawn from various Roman sources. Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778) was an Italian engraver, architect, and art theorist, born in Mogliano Veneto near Venice and died in Rome. He is best known for his etchings depicting the ruins of ancient Rome and for his imaginary compositions known as *Carceri d'invenzione* ("Imaginary Prisons"), which left an indelible mark on art history with their monumental and fantastical atmosphere. Settling in Rome in the 1740s,

Piranesi studied ancient architecture and developed a highly detailed style that played on the contrasts of light and shadow. His series of engravings, notably **Vedute di Roma**, helped spread the grandiose image of Rome throughout Europe, particularly among travelers on the Grand Tour. His work blends archaeological precision with dramatic imagination, making him one of the greatest engravers of the 18th century. He worked with his son Francesco Piranesi, who would continue his work after his death in 1778.