



PROANTIC  
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18th-century French Painting--kitchen Scene--brown Wash Highlighted With White (29 × 25 Cm), 18th



390 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

#### Description

From the circle of Nicolas-Bernard Lépicié (1735-1784) Young Maid Preparing Vegetables Brown wash, pen, and white highlights on brown paper. Dimensions of the drawing: 29 × 25 cm 18th-century frame: 44 × 40 cm This charming drawing depicts a young servant girl seated amid kitchen utensils and freshly harvested vegetables. Absorbed in her work, she prepares the meal while holding a bowl on her lap, while pottery, buckets, basins, a basket, and beautiful cabbages arranged in the foreground create a familiar and highly authentic setting. The artist renders this domestic scene with remarkable sensitivity. The drawing is executed in brown wash on tinted paper, enlivened by delicate highlights of white that bring the fabrics, the headdress, and the play of light to life. The

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economy of means never compromises precision: just a few brushstrokes suffice to convey the softness of the face, the suppleness of the drapery, and the materiality of the objects. This technique lends the work a great freshness of execution and an intimate atmosphere. Both in subject matter and style, this work evokes the compositions of Nicolas-Bernard Lépicié, one of the most endearing French painters of the second half of the 18th century. Close in spirit to Chardin, Lépicié sought to tenderly depict scenes of daily life, favoring simple gestures and modest figures over heroic subjects. Here we find that same pursuit of naturalism, that attention to everyday objects, and that discreet poetry that characterize his work. An old inscription reading "Lépicié," written in pencil on the passe-partout, accompanies the drawing. This inscription, which has not been authenticated, does not allow for a definitive attribution but attests to a historical connection with the painter or his circle. The work is presented in an elegant antique 18th-century carved and gilded wooden frame, which harmoniously highlights the warm tones of the paper and the wash. Condition The drawing is in very good condition. Some wear and old restorations are visible on the passe-partout, and there are slight signs of wear on the frame, consistent with its age. Our Opinion This drawing captivates with its balance, spontaneity, and the quality of its execution. It perfectly illustrates the 18th-century French taste for genre scenes inspired by daily life, in a style reminiscent of Chardin and Lépicié. More than just a study, it is a fully realized, decorative, and charming composition, whose quality fully justifies its place in a collection of antique drawings.