



A framed Japanese woodblock print illustration of a standing figure, likely a deity or noble, wearing elaborate robes and a blue headpiece. The figure is set within an arched frame. To the left of the figure is vertical Japanese text. The entire print is mounted on a cream-colored background and enclosed in a dark red wooden frame.

Period : 20th century
Condition : Parfait état

Mikhail Vassilievich NESTEROV
(1862-1942)The Holy Prince Boris (?????? ????
?????)Watercolor, gouache, and pencil on
paper,monogrammed lower right ?. ?.Framed
under glass.H_38 cm L_20 cm (sight size)Very
good state of preservation.Private collection. On
the verso, an old inventory label with a mention
of the State Archive of Literature and Art of
Russia (RGALI).This delicate work fully
embodies the poetic and spiritual style of Mikhail
Nesterov, one of the foremost representatives of
Symbolism and the revival of sacred art in Russia
in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.The
drawing depicts the Holy Prince Boris (baptized
Roman), son of Grand Prince Vladimir. Murdered
in 1015 on the orders of their brother Svyatopolk
the Accursed, Boris and his brother Gleb were the

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first saints canonized by the Russian Church.

Having refused to take up arms against their brother to avoid fratricidal war, they embody, in the Orthodox tradition, the ideal of non-resistance to evil and of sacrifice through Christian love.

Here, Nesterov portrays the young prince clad in his richly ornamented princely mantle, holding the cross of martyrdom in one hand and resting the other on his sheathed sword.