



"young Girl In Prayer," A Pastel From 1809 That Inspired Marie Ernestine Serret's 1836 Painting



560 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Pastel

Description

Important anonymous pastel from 1809 - Direct source for Marie-Ernestine Serret's masterpiece (1836 Salon) Early 19th-century French school
Date of creation: November 25, 1809 (dated lower left)
Pastel dimensions: 48 cm x 41 cm
This magnificent pastel, with its distinct pre-Romantic charm, is a discovery of great interest for the history of 19th-century art. The composition depicts a young woman in prayer, her hands clasped before an open book on a lectern, dressed in an opulent blue gown with puffed sleeves edged in fur. Her headdress, encircled with pearls, holds a long, diaphanous veil--a medieval-inspired motif that heralds the beginnings of the Troubadour style. The significance of this work lies in the fact that it served as a model and direct source for the artist

Dealer

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Mobile : 06 14 52 35 57

38 rue Charles Waddington

Vert-en-Drouais 28500

Marie-Ernestine Serret (1812-1883), a student of Hortense Haudebourt-Lescot. Serret drew direct inspiration from this pastel, dated 1809, to create her major oil-on-canvas painting in 1836, titled *Young Girl, Study*. Successfully exhibited at the Salons of the time, Serret's painting is now part of the permanent collection of the La Rochelle Museum of Fine Arts. Whether it was a studio masterpiece she copied during her training or a work from a private collection that made a deep impression on her, this pastel serves as the original model for one of the artist's most poetic museum pieces. Technique: Dry pastel on paper; the pigments have retained remarkable freshness and a striking velvety quality in the faces and fabrics. Inscriptions: Dated in red ink in the artist's own hand in the lower left corner: "November 25, 1809". Frame: The work is enhanced by a sumptuous period frame made of wood and gilded stucco, richly carved with a frieze of foliage, gadroons, and channels, in perfect aesthetic harmony with the pastel.