Léon Bonnat (1833-1922) / Elegant Woman In Profile / Original Ink Drawing



580 EUR

Signature : LÉON BONNAT (1833-1922)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Paper

Description

Léon Joseph Florentin BONNAT (1833-1922)
Profile of a WomanInk drawing on paperSigned lower right14 × 9 cm unframed32 × 26 with frameA charming and delicate ink drawing depicting the profile of a young woman, executed with remarkable freedom of line.With a few supple, swift, and confident lines, Léon Bonnat succeeds in capturing the essence of a woman's features. The face, delicately tilted, is defined almost exclusively by its outline, while fine hatching suggests the hair and its play of light and shadow. The economy of means is what makes this composition so compelling: no superfluous details, no attempt to create a specific effect, but rather a succession of spontaneous lines that reveal the mastery of an accomplished draftsman.The model's updo, the softness of her

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profile, and her peaceful demeanor lend this small study a very special elegance.This drawing reveals a more intimate and spontaneous facet of Bonnat's art, far removed from the solemn character of his grand official portraits. It allows us to directly appreciate the sure hand and remarkable observational skills of the artist.Léon Bonnat (1833-1922) Born in Bayonne in 1833, Léon Joseph Florentin Bonnat ranks among the leading figures in French painting of the second half of the 19th century.After spending part of his youth in Madrid, where he discovered the great Spanish masters, notably Velázquez and Ribera, he continued his artistic training in Paris in the studio of Léon Cogniet.His stay in Italy, made possible by a stipend from his hometown, helped deepen his knowledge of the European pictorial tradition.Starting out as a painter of historical and religious subjects, Bonnat gradually established himself as one of the most sought-after portraitists of his time.He immortalized numerous figures from the worlds of politics, literature, and the arts, including Victor Hugo, Louis Pasteur, Jules Ferry, and Ernest Renan.His work is distinguished by its meticulous draftsmanship, penetrating observation of facial features, and exceptional mastery of form.As a professor at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he also exerted a considerable influence on several generations of artists. His students included, notably, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Raoul Dufy, and Thomas Eakins.Elected a member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 1881, he became director of the École des Beaux-Arts in 1905.A passionate collector, he amassed a remarkable collection of old master paintings and drawings throughout his life, a significant portion of which formed the basis of the collections at the Bonnat-Helleu Museum in Bayonne.His works are now held in numerous French and international public collections.A native of Bayonne, Léon Bonnat remains a major figure in 19th-century French painting. His significance in art history is notably recognized by the prestigious Bonnat-Helleu

Museum in Bayonne, which bears his name and houses a substantial portion of his artistic legacy and personal collections. A great lover and collector of old drawings, Bonnat bequeathed an exceptional collection of several thousand works, helping to make this museum one of France's leading institutions dedicated to the fine arts and graphic arts. This legacy attests to the artist's considerable stature, both as a painter and draftsman and as a collector and key figure in the artistic life of his time. Artistic interest.This small drawing embodies all the charm of the studies executed from life by the great masters of the 19th century.A charming cabinet piece, particularly interesting for lovers of old drawings and the 19th-century French school.