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Festival Design For Archduke Maximilian, Piazza Colonna, Rome, 1775



1 200 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Description

Architectural Drawing for the Column of Marcus Aurelius, Rome, 1775
Pen and brown ink, wash and graphite on laid paper
On the reverse, a second architectural sketch in graphite with elevations, details and measurements
Sheet dimensions -- 20.7 × 34.5 cm
Italian School, Rome, 1775
Attributed to Onofrio Boni (1739-1818)
Watermark resembling a fleur-de-lis, visible in transmitted light
This design for a temporary decoration around the Column of Marcus Aurelius is linked to the visit of Archduke Maximilian Franz of Austria to Rome in 1775. The column's spiral relief rises above a monumental base flanked by two

Dealer

Antichità di Alina
Peintures anciennes - Art nouveau - Art déco, micromosaïques, porcelaine
Mobile : +39 3383199131

Via Maggio 63 / rosso
Firenze 50100

staircases. Urns line the stairs, while eagles and allegorical figures frame the Latin inscription, which names Empress Maria Theresa and bears the date 1775. Below the main drawing are a handwritten draft of the dedication, with corrections, and several alternative details sketched in graphite.

The sheet comes from a portfolio of drawings kept in a Tuscan residence of the Baldelli Boni family. The portfolio contained several architectural designs associated with Onofrio Boni, including a sheet already attributed to him. The handwriting in its annotations resembles that of the draft dedication. The shared provenance and the similarities in handwriting support the attribution to Boni.

On 27 July 1775, Prince Sigismondo Chigi held a celebration in honour of the Archduke in Piazza Colonna. Giuseppe Vasi's etching, reproduced among the listing images, shows the firework set designed by Pietro Camporese the Elder, who incorporated the column into a temporary model of Mount Etna. With its monumental base and paired staircases, the present drawing may represent another proposal for the same festivities.