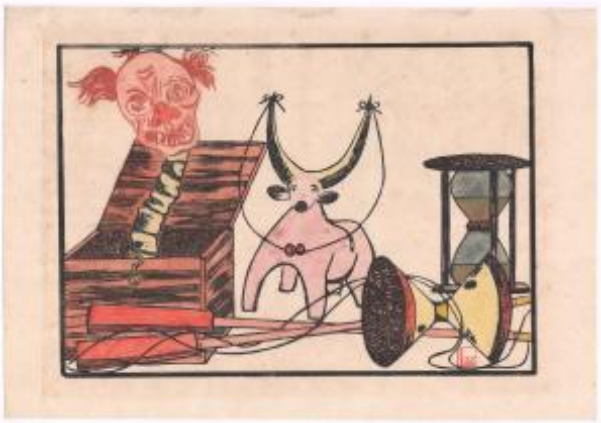
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LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Isaac's Print: Toys And An Hourglass



2 300 EUR

Signature : ISAAC PROSPER ALPHONSE (1858-1924)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 384 mm

Height : 267 mm

Description

One of his earliest and rarest woodblock prints, hand-colored with a brush.Comparable to the Yosokukangu prints.Print bearing the artist's red stamp.A few scattered foxing spots; slight oxidation at the opening of an old mat.Before 1906I.F.F.: 19"Isaac's earliest known prints--drypoints and aquatints in black and color--date back to 1900(...).The introduction of color--essential to Isaac's work, as it was already a central concern in his dyed textiles--confirms his total immersion in Japanese art (...).The art that Alphonse Isaac practiced "with the greatest consistency and passion" was woodblock printing in the Japanese style. He practiced it for some twenty years, from around 1905 until his death in 1924. Mastering the Japanese technique was the result of a long process, involving many years of

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study and experimentation. After the two alabaster prints, he produced six woodblock prints in which only the black tones were printed, with the colors still applied by brush. These undated prints were likely created before 1906, two years before he began taking lessons from a professional Japanese printmaker and some time before the first dinner invitation card from the Friends of Japanese Art. They depict Japanese toys accompanied by floral motifs. Interpreting these prints with their unusual compositions is quite difficult, as they remain unique within his body of work, even though they already exhibit the main characteristics of Isaac's style, notably his fondness for Japanese objects, ornamental floral motifs, thick black lines, solid blocks of color, and finally his signature and, at times, the use of a small black swastika. This mark, which he borrowed from Hokusai and Totoya Hokkei (1780-1850), emphasizes the connection to Japanese art and appears to mean "engraved and printed using Japanese techniques." "Émilie Vabre: News from the World of Printmaking, Prosper-Alphonse Isaac (1858-1924)Wood engraver in the Japanese style, 2011