

THE MOCKING OF CHRIST

Artist: François Langot
Date: First half of the 17th Century
Dimensions: 217 x 150 cm
Material: Etching on paper
Inventory Number: 43621

Total Cost: € 6.750,00

STATE OF PRESERVATION:

This work is in a precarious condition. The surface shows areas of reddish brown color due to oxidation of the substrate. Several tears are present. Some swelling and deformation is apparent due to its distance from the canvas. The surface is dirty.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- GRS research
- Proper cleaning
- Fixing of the tears
- Fixing of the gaps with Japanese paper
- Reinforcement of borders
- Final touch-up painting
- Photographic documentation

François Langot was born in Melun, France around 1640 and died in Paris in approximately 1680. It is thought that he completed this magnificent etching towards the first half of the 17th century. This large work on paper portrays Christ Mocked. On the bottom left hand side, a scroll states that the subject is inspired by a painting of Anthony van Dyck and printed by the Parisian publisher Gabriel Laundry.

Langot studied in Paris to become an engraver and possibly worked in the workshop of Laundry himself for whom he also completed an Adoration of the Magi based on a work by Pietro da Cortona in addition to his Christ Mocked. Numerous other prints reproducing paintings by Cornelis Blomaert, Rubens and other important artists were also completed by Langot.

In this etching, Christ is the center of the composition looking weary and tired. His hands are tied and he is surrounded by a group of menacing-looking men who are focusing their attention and gestures on Jesus. The work reproduces the passage from the Gospel of Matthew in which Christ is stripped of his clothes, covered with a scarlet robe, crowned with thorns and a cane is placed in his right hand with a clear intention of derision.

As mentioned, this engraving reproduces a work by Van Dyck (born in Antwerp in 1599 and died in London in 1641) who dealt on several occasions with the theme of Christ Mocked. He is known to have completed three paintings, engravings and many copies on the same subject. Of the three paintings, one is preserved in the Berlin Gallery Van Diemen, the second is in a private collection in Basel and the third is in the Prado. The etching which is going to be restored shows variations which suggest its derivation from one of the many copies in circulation at the time of the paintings of Van Dyck.

