

KARL&FABER

Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn

Lot 342

Lieven Willemsz. van Coppenol, Writing Master: The
Smaller Plate



Low estimate :

EUR 20,000.00

High estimate :

EUR 25,000.00

Buyers premium incl. VAT :

27 %

Artist

Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn

Additional description

Etching, engraving and drypoint on laid paper. (c. 1658). 27.4 x 20.3 cm (sheet).

Period

(1606 Leiden - Amsterdam 1669)

Technique

Druckgrafik

Provenance

John Barnard (? - 1784), London, with the handwritten collector's mark verso (Lugt 219); Sotheby's, London, 4 December 2003, lot 89.

A fine impression of the extremely scarce 5th state, with the triptych burnished out but before the black disc is restored. With strong burr in places and wide margins, 8-12 mm around the platemark. The painting depicts the writing teacher Lieven Willemsz. van Coppenol, who lived in Amsterdam from 1599 to 1667 and worked as a writing master at the French school on the Singel. He was a great master of calligraphy and travelled throughout Holland to demonstrate his art. A central concern of Rembrandt's late work is the deepening of expressive content. His interest lies less in social representation than in capturing the inner reality of the sitter. This is particularly evident in the small Coppenol etching: the restrained composition directs the viewer's attention entirely to the expression of the face. The focused gaze and the positioning of the head suggest a vivid yet controlled presence – a physiognomic study that prioritises psychological truth over outward representation. – Faded pen inscription in an old hand in the blank space below: Coppenol Writing Master; verso on the lower right edge, two small, slightly thinned spots. The paper minimally time-stained, otherwise in very good condition. Very rare!