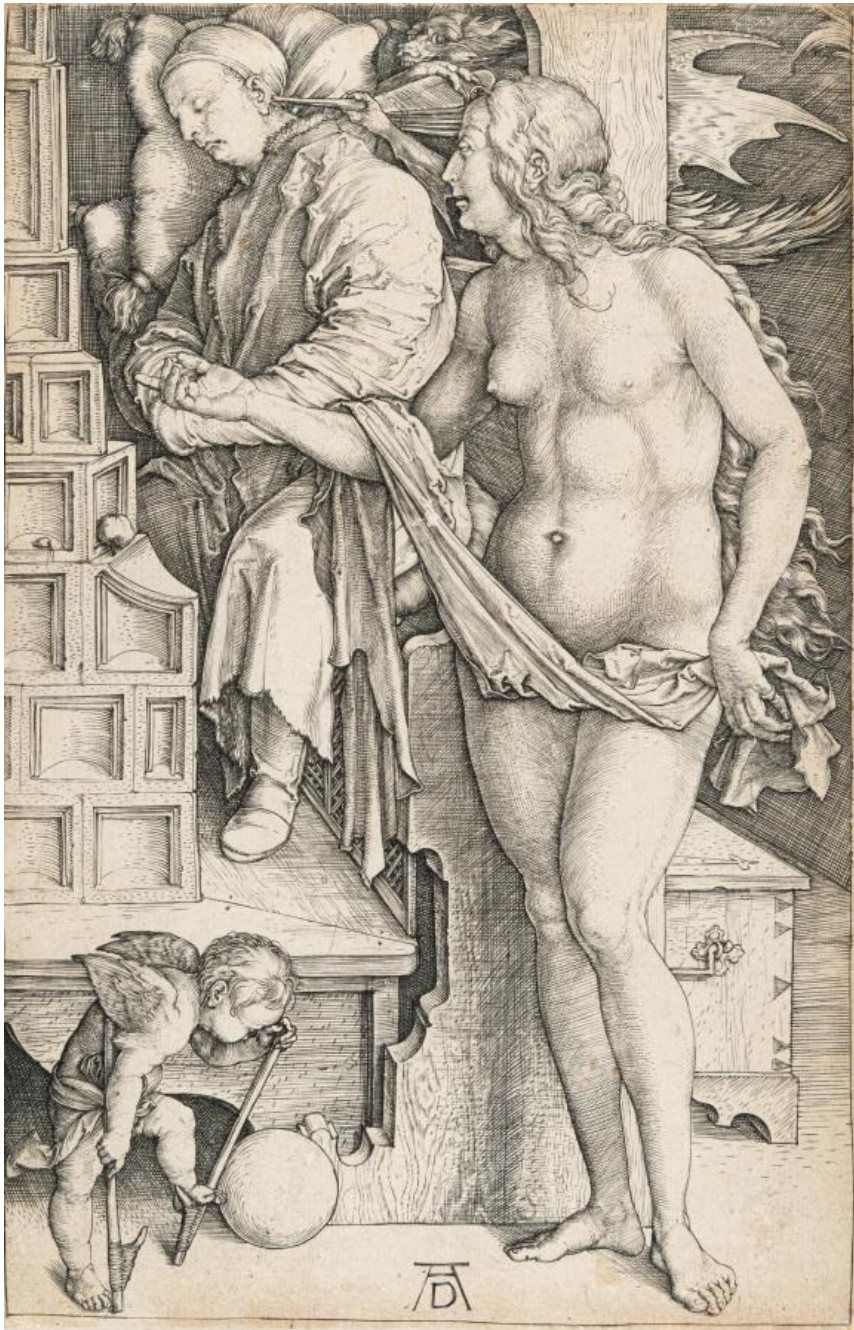


KARL&FABER

Albrecht Dürer

Lot 157

The Dream of the Doctor (Temptation of the Idler)



Low estimate :

EUR 15,000.00

High estimate :

EUR 18,000.00

Buyers premium incl. VAT :

32 %

Artist

Albrecht Dürer

Additional description

Engraving on laid paper. (About 1498). 19 x 12.4 cm (sheet).

Period

(1471 - Nuremberg - 1528)

Technique

Druckgrafik

Provenance

Wilhelm Eduard Drugulin (1825–Leipzig–1879), verso with the collector's stamp (Lugt 2612).

A very good Meder d-e impression, printing clearly, with good contrasts; with the scratch on the left arm of the sleeping man. A fine margin on two sides, cut slightly within the plate mark on the others. This 15th-century engraving presents a scene that is both humorous and morally charged. A corpulent man, seemingly of considerable means, dozes beside the warmth of a stove – a spot popularly referred to as the “hell bench“, not without reason. Behind him, a devilish demon whispers unchaste fantasies into his ear, using a bellows in a suggestive gesture. At the centre of his dream appears a nude female figure with flowing hair, depicted in a classically inspired contrapposto pose. She is unmistakably Venus, the goddess of love. In the lower left corner, Cupid teeters unsteadily on stilts – a witty detail that underscores the precarious nature of desire. Despite its misleading title, *The Doctor's Dream* is less concerned with medicine than with morality. The message is clear: “Idleness is the root of all vice.” This engraving serves as a vivid warning against the temptations of sloth and the moral decay that comes with idleness. Slightly time-stained along the edges and with isolated tiny brown spots. The lower right corner tip is backed. Verso with remnants and traces of a former mounting. Otherwise in good condition.