

KARL&FABER

Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn Lot 340

A Scholar in his Study ('Faust')



Low estimate :

EUR 80,000.00

High estimate :

EUR 120,000.00

Buyers premium incl. VAT :

27 %

Artist

Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn

Additional description

Etching with drypoint and burin on soft oatmeal paper. (c. 1652). 21.4 x 16.3 cm (sheet).

Period

(1606 Leiden - Amsterdam 1669)

Technique

Druckgrafik

Provenance

Müller-Jabusch, verso with the collector's stamp (not in Lugt).

An extremely fine, lifetime impression, printed on coarse-fibred, soft oatmeal paper, with strong burr on the curtain, the skull and on the coat of the scholar. With fine margins. This impression offers a compelling example of Rembrandt's nuanced handling of plate tone and surface wiping. Through selective wiping, he carefully exposed key elements such as the books and manuscripts on the shelves at upper left, as well as the modelling of Faust's garment. Simultaneously, he preserved the rich burr in the densely etched areas of the curtain and its fringes, thereby achieving a striking balance between linear precision and atmospheric density. An impression on similar oatmeal paper is held in the Albertina, Vienna, and is reproduced life-size in *Rembrandt: The Late Works*, p. 156. By contrast, earlier impressions printed on Japanese and European laid papers exhibit a markedly different character. In those, Rembrandt applied the ink more generously and wiped the plate only lightly, allowing heavy plate tone and burr to obscure finer details. As a result, the middle ground—particularly Faust's shoulder and cloak—becomes enveloped in a richly textured shadow, lending the composition a markedly painterly quality. Rembrandt's choice of oatmeal paper—used for only a select number of impressions—is significant. Its lightly fibrous texture and soft buff hue contribute to the evocation of Faust's dimly lit, dust-filled study. This particular paper not only amplifies the atmospheric effect but also serves as a deliberate aesthetic decision within the broader strategy of the print. The combined use of selective wiping, controlled burr, and an optically responsive support underscores Rembrandt's sophisticated understanding of how material and technique can be orchestrated to heighten expressive content. (See Nancy Ash and Shelley Fletcher, 'Rembrandt the Printmaker: Materials and Techniques', in: Erik Hinterding et al. (eds), *Rembrandt the Printmaker*, London: British Museum Press, 2000, pp. 53–65; and Erik Hinterding, *Rembrandt as an Etcher: The Practice of Production and Distribution*, vol. 1, Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, 2006, pp. 111–145.) The paper slightly time-stained. Two small brown spots in the window. A faint

paper rubbing on the lower right edge. Verso traces and remnants of a former mounting, otherwise in very good condition.