

Sale Name: Online Fine Art Auction February 28th 2024

LOT 12 - J. Harris after H. Alken - The First Steeple Chase On Record, The Last Field Near Nacton Heath



Artist Description John Harris (1811 – 1865 UK) An engraver working in the 19th century. He reproduced the works of many popular animal and sporting artists of the time. He also executed some military scenes. There is some debate over Harris' origins. Some evidence seems to suggest that he is the son of watercolourist and illustrator John Harris II (1767-1832). However, the alternating dates of his lifespan also suggest he might have been the son of a cabinet maker. The historical records remain reluctant to offer up any clarity on this matter. What is known, however, is that Harris worked his whole life in London and that the prints he produced are of the finest execution and skill. Harris would often translate the works of the prominent animal and sporting artists of the time such as John Frederick Herring Snr (1795-1865), Henry Alken (1785-1851), and James Pollard (1792-1867). Such works were incredibly popular during the early 19th century. Horse owners commissioned works of their prized pets which emphasised their strength and breeding. The upper classes desired prints of their favourite country sports, such as steeplechasing and foxhunting. The market was booming, and engravers such as Harris were an essential part of the dissemination of these images, producing reproductions for publication. Harris worked predominantly in aquatint, an intaglio printmaking technique through which tonal effects are produced. The result of this painstaking work, which could take weeks or months to complete, are glorious reproductions of the original painted works. Harris captures the gleaming, slick coats of the prized mares, their muscles flexing, heads held high. His figures are top-hatted and tailored to the right dimensions, looking in place sat upon their steeds. Many of his works include detailed landscaped surroundings.

Description

Aquatint Engraving after Henry Thomas Alken

Published March 1st, 1839 by Ben Brooks, London

Sight - 14 ins x 16.5 ins (35.56 cm x 41.91 cm)

Framed Under Glass

Provenance:

Private Collection

Quantity: 1



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