JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

“Booked for a Brace”

CHARLES JOSI

Sold



REF: 374864

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Description

London, England

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CHARLES JOSI R.B.A.Op.1827-1851English School“Booked for a Brace” Oil on canvas56 x 69.5 cms22 x 26 insOverall framed size 71 x 81.5 cms
28 x 321/8 insProvenance: Appleby Bros, LondonEngraved: John Scott (an example of which is held in the collection of the British Museum)
Grant describes Charles Josi as being: “A clever and popular painter of animals in landscape, the latter often prominent…”
He was a successful animal artist during his life and in some examples of these depictions the subject filled almost the entire canvas. Sally Mitchell, in her Dictionary of British Equestrian Artists, writes that: “Josi’s work is very fine, his horses painted in a style far in advance of their time, being most natural and fluid.”There is no information recorded of his date of birth, where he undertook his training as a painter, or where he finally died. Some think that there is a possibility that he had southern French or Italian origins as he painted a number of landscapes in Italy. However, that appears rather speculative and more probably, he was the son of Christian Josi (1768-1828) and brother of Henry/Henri Josi (1802-1845)Christian had been born in Utrecht and having been awarded a scholarship from the Rhede Renwoude Institute, came to London to study engraving under the artist and mezzotinter John Raphael Smith. He was in London for five years during which time he met and married Carolina Susanna Chalon who was the daughter of Jan Chalon (1738-1795), a musician, printmaker and collector. Her brother was the renowned animal painter Henry Bernard Chalon.Josi returned to Holland in 1796, setting up as an engraver and dealer in prints and drawings in a gallery in Amsterdam and through his new wife’s family connections to the collector Ploos van Amstel, acquired the latter’s collections in about 1800. Van Amstel had an important collection of Rembrandt etchings and these were sold by Josi to the 5th Earl of Aylesford and this sale, combined with his astuteness, made him a significant dealer in prints and drawings with a respected reputation for connoisseurship. In 1815 he was a member of the Dutch Committee working on the restitution of works of art seized during the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars which was particularly important to him as his business had closed during the French occupation.Christian returned to London in 1818, setting up premises in Gerard St, Soho – Dryden had been a previous resident - although he continued to travel between London and Holland in his dealings. In 1821 he published Collection d'imitations de dessins d'après les principaux maitres Hollandais et Flamands, which completed the series started by Ploos van Amstel, who had not proceeded beyond 46 plates, whereas Josi’s new addition contained 100 pr...

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