

Cabinet of the Month March 2023



Antoine Paillet / Etienne Picard

(1626 – 1701 / 1632 – 1721)

Franciscus de Braque Regi Ab Omnib. Consil. Sereniss. Aurelianensium Ducissae Supremus Domus ac Aerarii Praefectus. Antonius Paillet Pinx. ad vivum. Stephanus Picart Rom.us Sculp. 1668.

SFlattened centerfold. Etching. 35,1:28,6 cm

François de Braque (? – 1665) was King's Counselor and Treasurer of Madame the Duchess of Orleans. (45119).

CHF 800.-

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Giovanni Battista Piranesi
(Mogliano/Venice 1720 – 1788 Rome)

Colonna Trajana. 1758.

Sheet 51 of the series "Vedute di Roma". Good impression of the 3rd state with the artist's address in Rome and the price. Etching. 53:40.

Focillon 798. Hind 51 III (von VII). Wilton-Ely 150.

Inconspicuous squeeze fold due to printing, as well as two light stains. (41247).

CHF 3000.–

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CARL WILHELM KOLBE

(Berlin 1759 – 1835 Dessau)

Oak forest with house and horse carriage.

Etching. 31:41,5 cm.

AMartens 219 II. Jentsch 159. Michels, Carl Wilhelm Kolbe d. Ä. Dessau 2009 no. 99.

Kolbe saw himself as a landscapist. His landscapes mainly consist of trees and mainly oaks. For him, the tree, as the largest existing organism, embodies the soul of the landscape. The idea of "Nature and Arcadia" merges in the oak tree. Kolbe's «Arcadian concept of nature» found a symbolic shape in the oak tree and in the lush swamp vegetation.

In order to be able to concentrate on what is essential for him in the image display, Kolbe used a simple scheme. The picture is dominated by a tree or group of oak trees. To balance landscape a space is opening to the left, right, or even the middle to a clearing, which is structured by fences and low trees. Man is not intrusive but always noticeably integrated into the happening and walks through a swampy landscape on a path that leads to a lonely forest hut. Paper with signs of age in the large margins. (44107).

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Nicolas Struyck / Albertus Seba

(1686 Amsterdam 1769 / Etzel 1665 – 1736 Amsterdam)

Blue iris with butterfly, (*Arctia caja*), its caterpillar and pupa. Two volumes Watercolour and body colour, on contemporary black- and gold-ruled beige card mount. 24:20 cm.

Entomological drawing of Albertus Seba's famous cabinet. Seba was an Amsterdam apothecary and a leading figure in the international scientific community. He formed two of the greatest and most famous natural history cabinets of the 18th century which he generously opened to scholars and scientists. In 1717 he sold his first cabinet to the Russian Czar, Peter the Great and immediately began forming an even more extensive cabinet.

He was able to take advantage of Amsterdam's preeminent position in overseas trade to collect exotic and rare specimens. Seba bought and traded mussels, snails, snakes, fishes, shellfishes, spiders insects and plants from returning sailors. Thanks to the skills of artists and etchers, these unknown and strange specimens were documented and then brought to life in pleasingly combined compositions. This was published in four volumes as: *Locupletissimi rerum naturalium thesauri descriptio*, the first two issued between 1734 and Seba's death in 1736, and the final volumes appearing posthumously. We can not be sure whether the drawings are from his second collection or from the first cabinet before their removal to Russia in 1717. (45118).

CHF 2800.

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Félix Vallotton

(Lausanne 1865 – 1925 Paris)

L'Émotion. 1898.

Monogram stamp (Lugt 1051a) and with pencil numbered. Woodcut. 22,5:17,5 cm.

Vall.-G. 198 g.

Provenance: Private Collection, Geneva

Perfect impression on white Japanese paper. One of 50 posthumously printed impressions. (45061).

CHF 2200.-