H. H. RUMBLER



ALBRECHT DÜRER
(1471 - 1528)

The Babylonian Whore

circa 1496-98
Woodcut
39.2 x 27.8 cm (15 $^{3}/_{8}$ x 11 inches)
monogrammed

Provenance

Reverend J. Burleigh James (Lugt 1425)
Henry Foster Sewall (Lugt 1309)
Pierre Sentuc (Lugt 3608)

Plate 15 from the series >The Apocalypse<
Latin text edition of 1511

Brilliantly deep black, unusually homogeneously printed impression of rare beauty.

With 7-9 mm paper margin around the framing line. In quite excellent condition.

According to Wölflin, the composition is the earliest sheet in the series, perhaps the beginning of the whole work lies here. That would mean that the artist was particularly attracted to this subject... For the Whore, the beautiful, alluring woman, Dürer used the drawing after a Venetian woman, which he had drawn on the spot. His imagination couldn't find a more seductive type. How often since then, until Gabriele d'Annuncio, Venice has been sung about as the city of lust! - The astonished, prejudiced crowd, to whom the seduction is directed, has been formed according to individual characters. One thinks of Signorelli's simultaneous depiction of the Antichrist in Orvieto. A monk is the only one who immediately piously fell on his knees before the whore.

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