

Daniel Katz Gallery

ANTIQUITY TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY



Sir Thomas Lawrence (Bristol 1769 - London 1830)

The beautiful washerwoman

Black and red chalks

63.5 x 41.6 cm

Thomas Lawrence was the finest portrait painter of his generation in Europe. Lacking in formal and artistic education, he nevertheless scaled the most dazzling heights of his profession. Through his prodigious talents and ambition, he became the most popular chronicler of fashionable London society.

He formed a superb collection of Old Master drawings and was a highly skilled draftsman himself. His works on paper range from friendship portraits and commissioned portrait drawings to sketches of historical events. He produced intimate drawings in delicate black and red chalk or pastel throughout his life, mostly for his own pleasure. Lawrence had a remarkable ability to infuse his characterizations with life and sensibility. Like on the present drawing, his sitters often appear in the midst of actual life, pausing for a brief interval to allow the artist to capture their likeness.

Provenance

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- Richard Monckton Milnes, 1st Lord Houghton (1808-1885)

- then by descent to Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe (1915-2014)

Exhibitions

Exhibited:

- Leeds, The Royal Yorkshire Jubilee Exhibition, 1887, unnumbered