

RONNY VAN DE VELDE



Félicien Rops(Namur 1833 - Essonnes 1898)

L'Experte en dentelles, 1873

Pastel, charcoal and pencil on paper
300 x 240 mm

Signed, titled and dated, Hollande sept 73 with the initials FR

Provenance:

Hôtel Drouot, room 8, Paris, 7 March 1904, Aquarelles et dessins par Félicien Rops
A.M. Burtin, France, Private collection

Exhibitions

Les expositions des Beaux-Arts, Paris 1933 Rétrospective Félicien Rops, no. 131
MARTA, Herford, 2008, Loss of Control

Literature:

Eugène Rouir, Félicien Rops, Catalogue raisonné de l'oeuvre gravé et lithographié, Brussels, Claude Van Loock, 1992, vol. III, no. 962, 968, 969, 971, heliogravure with etching ill.

Artist description:

Belgian printmaker and painter. Rops settled in Paris in 1874 , and rapidly established himself as an illustrator of esoteric and erotic literature. He was admired by many of the leading symbolist writers, including J. K. Huysmans and, most importantly, Baudelaire , who was responsible for launching him into the Parisian art world. Rops's art developed from Symbolism towards Surrealism in his metamorphic depictions of obscene and blasphemous monsters. He also explored the darker aspects of Satanism and the occult. His best works are the illustrations he produced for Baudelaire's *Fleurs du*

mal, and Joséphin Péladan's *Le Vice suprême*, and a series of etchings, *Les Sataniques*, which exploit his talent for the depiction of contemporary evil and his hostility to women to devastating effect, as in *Pornokrates* (1896 ; etching). Hailed as the leader of 'Dark Symbolism', he rejected the lyrical aspects of the movement in favour of deliberately shocking images and juxtapositions, perverse, erotic, and bizarre.