

Le Kiosque by Michel Delacroix

Lithograph on Paper - Main Subject: Folk Art



Item Number

5871251253

Retail Value

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Dimensions (As Shown)

22.8W x 18.8H Inches

57.91W x 47.75H cm

Medium

Lithograph on Paper

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About Michel Delacroix

Michel Delacroix is truly a French original: an acclaimed master of the naïf tradition and one of the most popular and successful artists in the world today. A self-styled "painter of dreams and of the poetic past," Delacroix has devoted five decades to painting a city he calls "the Paris of then," the magical place where he was born, where he spent his boyhood, and where he continues to live to this day.

But the Paris Delacroix paints is not the urban metropolis of the present. It is the dream-like place the city became in the 1940s, during the Occupation, when "we suddenly jumped fifty years into the past. No more cars in the streets, very few lights. Paris

suddenly became very quiet, very dark, and, though people were afraid, there was a brotherhood and spirit that was very delightful. "For Delacroix, who was then a child of seven and spared by his age from grasping "the cruelties and absurdities" of war, it was "the one great adventure of my live."

And it is to this special Paris - the Paris of by-gone years and innocent splendors that Delacroix has returned to over and over again in his gentle works. These works, renowned for their graceful balance of "the earthy and the urban, the cosmic and the ordinary," have captivated private collectors, museums and ordinary people alike throughout the world, earning the artist both universal acclaim and numerous awards.

In the U.S. alone, Delacroix's work has been featured in over 275 one-person shows, from New York City, Boston, and Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, Carmel, Denver, Seattle, and San Francisco. Abroad, his work has been exhibited in France, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, England, and Japan, and forms part of the permanent collections of the Musee International d'Art Naïf and the Foundation Max Fournay in Paris, and of private collections around the globe.

Delacroix has achieved some of the highest accolades and awards including the Prix Public-Prix Pro Art, (Switzerland 1973) the Grand Prix des Amateurs d Art, (Paris 1975), the Grand Prix de la Cote d Azur, (Cannes 1976) and the Premier Prix de Sept Collines, (Rome 1976). In 1976 Delacroix was bestowed one of the greatest honors an artist can receive when his work was purchased by the Ministry of Culture for Paris Fonds National d Art Contemporain. Delacroix was named the Official Artist of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games and the Official Artist for the 1995 Special Olympics World Games.

Lithograph on Paper

This printing technique uses a planographic process in which prints are pulled on a special press from a flat stone or metal surface. The surface has been chemically treated so that ink sticks only to the design areas, and is repelled by the non-image areas. Lithography was invented in Germany in 1798. The early history of lithography is dominated by great French artists such as Daumier and Delacroix, and later by Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Braque and Miro.

Based on the principle that oil and water repel, a Lithograph is created when an artist produces an oil-based or pen image on a stone or piece of metal. This surface is then moistened and covered with an oil-based ink. The resulting chemical reaction between the oil and water drives away the ink on the surface except where the drawing was first done. Fine quality paper is then placed against the surface and a lithographic press is used to create the print. Modern technology and processes have provided artists with many unique methods with which to create magnificent lithographs. In the 1890s color lithography became enormously popular with French artists, Toulouse-Lautrec most notably of all, and by 1900 the medium in both color and monotone was an accepted part of printmaking, although France and the US have used it more than other countries. George Bellows, Alphonse Mucha, Pablo Picasso, Jasper Johns, David Hockney and Robert Rauschenberg are a few of the artists who have produced most of their prints in the medium.

As a special form of lithography, the Serilith process is sometimes used. Serilith are mixed media original prints created in a process where an artist uses the lithograph and serigraph process. The separations for both processes are hand drawn by the artist. The serilith technique is used primarily to create fine art limited print editions.

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