

# KLAAS MULLER

## J A C O B J O R D A E N S

### Head study of a crying girl, with a separate study of her mouth

Crying children appear several times in Jordaens' works (cfr "The king drinks", KMSK, Brussels) and it appears to be a popular theme that the master depicted in several paintings. Our drawing is very typical and prototypical of Jordaen's style around the 1630s (see R.A. D'Hulst, *Jordaens Drawings*, Arcade Brussels, Vol. 1, p. 255, Nr 1166) . With a few powerful and accurate lines, the master manages to evoke a strong emotion.

Jordaens made several drawings after life; they provided a foothold and could serve as inspiration for faces in larger paintings. Interestingly, the master drew a 2nd mouth on our drawing, as if he was considering another option or wanted to deepen this detail.

Black Chalk heightened with White, 14 x 11.5 cm (5 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches)

17th century



### Exhibitions

Ottawa, National Gallery of Canada, Jacob Jordaens, 1593-1678. An Exhibition, 1968-1969, no. 157, ill. (catalogue by Michael Jaffé).

**Artist description:**

Jacob (Jacques) Jordaens was a Flemish painter, draughtsman and a designer of tapestries and prints. He was a prolific artist who created biblical, mythological, and allegorical compositions, genre scenes, landscapes, illustrations of Flemish sayings and portraits. After the death of Rubens and Anthony van Dyck, he became the leading Flemish Baroque painter of his time. Unlike those illustrious contemporaries he never travelled abroad to study the Antique and Italian painting and, except for a few short trips to locations elsewhere in the Low Countries, he resided in Antwerp his entire life. He also remained largely indifferent to Rubens and van Dyck's intellectual and courtly aspirations. This attitude was expressed in his art through a lack of idealistic treatment which contrasted with that of these contemporaries.