

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

The fool, his cat and a horse

Jordaens dealt with this theme several times (including 'A woman, the fool and his cat', Instituto Moll, Madrid/ 'The good cat and the treacherous one', Galerie Sankt Lucas, Vienna, whereabouts unknown and several drawings). Only here, the jester and cat are depicted with a horse in the background. Typical is the ballustrade and the cloth hanging in front of it. A painting by a follower of Jordaens (private collection, Belgium) with a similar jester bears the inscription 'Wie Salde Cat De Bel Aen Hange' or 'who will make the cat hang the bell'.

The drawing was started with red chalk and later finished with brown pen, ink and brush. The liveliness, spontaneity, power and precision of this small sheet betray the hand of the master.

It is possibly a design for a painting from the same series as 'A jester makes fun on a balcony' (Phoebus foundation). The exact meaning of the theme still remains somewhat unclear.

Red cray, Pen, Brush and Brown ink, 139 x 110 mm



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.