

KLAAAS MULLER

F É L I C I E N R O P S

Portrait of a man with moustache

Besides a gifted painter, Rops was best known as a remarkable draughtsman and engraver. His best-known work contains much social criticism and has a satirical and pornographic slant. From 1868, the artist stayed regularly in Paris and in 1874 (the year of our drawing) he went to live there. During his stay, Rops became a celebrated artist who was put on the same level as Honoré Daumier and illustrated works by Baudelaire ('Les Fleurs du Mal'), among others.

Monogrammed "FR" left below, Black chalk

We are grateful to Mrs. Bernadette Bonnier for having confirmed the drawing as an original work by Félicien Rops.



Artist description:

Félicien Victor Joseph Rops was a Belgian artist associated with Symbolism, Decadence, and the Parisian fin de siècle. He was a painter, illustrator, caricaturist and a prolific and innovative print maker, particularly in intaglio (etching and aquatint). Although not well known to the general public, Rops was greatly respected by his peers and actively pursued and celebrated as an illustrator by the publishers, authors, and poets of his time. He provided frontispieces and illustrations for works by Jules Barbey d'Aurevilly, Charles Baudelaire, Charles De Coster, Théophile Gautier, Joris-Karl Huysmans, Stéphane Mallarmé, Joséphin Péladan, Paul Verlaine, Voltaire, and many others. Best known today for his prints and drawings illustrating erotic and occult literature of the period, he also produced oil paintings including landscapes, seascapes, and occasional genre paintings. Rops is recognized as a pioneer of Belgian comics.