

KLAAS MULLER

FLEMISH SCHOOL 17TH CENT

Mountain landscape with travellers

This 17th-century drawing, probably originating from the Southern Netherlands, demonstrates exceptional mastery of line and composition. At the centre of the image is a monumental rock formation, rough and jagged, rising like a natural cathedral from the landscape. The artist has used subtle hatching and contrasting shadows to create an impressive sense of depth and texture, making the rock not only a geographical but also a visual focal point.

On the left, a path or stream winds through the valley, where small human figures are moving. Their presence is not merely decorative: they suggest movement, destination and a certain connection with the landscape. In the distance, on a wooded hill, stands a castle or fortified structure — an echo of medieval power and romantic imagination. This architectural element provides a counterweight to the raw nature and anchors the scene in a historical context.

The combination of human activity, natural grandeur and architectural reference makes this work a powerful visual narrative. It is a landscape that can not only be seen, but also read — as a story about travel, about time, and about the relationship between humans and their environment.

Pen, Pencil, brown and grey ink, washes, 188 x 270 mm



Artist description:

After the Siege of Antwerp (1584–1585), the Southern Provinces of the Netherlands ("Flanders") remained under Spanish rule and were separated from the independent Dutch Republic. Although many artists fled the religious wars and moved from the Southern Netherlands to the Dutch Republic (Dutch Golden Age), Flemish Baroque painting flourished, especially in the Antwerp school, during the seventeenth century under Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, and Jacob Jordaens.