

STEPHEN ONGPIN FINE ART



Aurelio Lomi (1556 - 1622)

Studies of Youths Pulling on Ropes

Black chalk, heightened with touches of white chalk on blue paper.

A faint study of the main figure repeated in black chalk on the verso. Signed(?) lomi at the bottom centre.

A made up section at the lower left corner.

200 x 301 mm. (7 7/8 x 11 7/8 in.)

Aurelio Lomi's charming drawings take the form of preparatory figure studies for paintings, and many of these can be connected with surviving works by the artist, dating between 1597 and 1619. In general, Lomi's practice was to draw compositional studies in pen and ink, while using black chalk for studies of individual figures and motifs. The present sheet is a typical example of the latter, and displays the artist's characteristic habit of repeating studies of parts of the figure on the same sheet. Also typical of Lomi's drawing practice is the use of coloured paper. While it has not proved possible to relate the two figures in this drawing to any surviving painting by the artist, it may be noted that the pose of the right-hand youth is similar to that of a man throwing a stone in Lomi's painting of *The Martyrdom of Saint Stephen*, today in the Galleria del Palazzo Bianco in Genoa.

Among stylistically comparable drawings by Lomi are a drawing of four studies of a youth in the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Rouen, which is preparatory for an altarpiece of the *Adoration of the Magi*, painted between 1600 and 1604 and today in the Galleria Sabauda in Turin, and a drawing of a man seen from behind, in a private collection in Paris, which is a study for a painting of *Saint Francis Curing a Blind Man* of 1611-1614 in Pisa. Also similar are two double-sided drawings of figure studies, one in the Louvre and the other in the British Museum, both of which are studies for a painting of *The Feast of Ahasuerus* in the Duomo in Pisa, painted by Lomi between 1610 and 1617.

An identical signature or inscription 'lomi' is found on a double-sided chalk drawing in the Kupferstichkabinett in Berlin, which contains studies for Lomi's 1610 altarpiece of *Christ Healing the Blind Man*, also in the Duomo in Pisa.

Provenance:

An anonymous 17th or 18th century Florentine collection, possibly that of Giuseppe Santini, Florence
Possibly Comte Eugène d'Oultremont, Chateau de Presles, Aiseau-Presle, Belgium, and thence by descent until 1985

Anonymous sale ('The Property of a Nobleman'), London, Christie's, 12 December 1985, lot 190.

Literature:

Lawrence Turcic and Mary Newcome, 'Drawings by Aurelio Lomi', *Paragone*, September 1991, p.46, no.29 (not illustrated); Rennes, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, *Dessins de la collection Christian et Isabelle Adrien*, exhibition catalogue, 2012, p.49, under no.9, note 7 (entry by Cristiana Romalli).

Artist description:

The half-brother of the painter Orazio Gentileschi, Aurelio Lomi was a pupil of Ludovico Cigoli and Alessandro Allori in Florence and worked mainly in Tuscany and Liguria. Admitted into the Accademia del Disegno in Florence in 1578, he spent the early years of his independent career in Rome, where among his chief works were the vault frescoes of the Assunta chapel of Santa Maria in Vallicella, painted between 1587 and 1588. Lomi painted numerous altarpieces for churches in his native Pisa, including San Silvestro, San Martino, Santa Maria del Carmine and San Frediano, as well as several works for the Duomo. He also painted religious works for such Florentine churches as Santo Spirito, San Lorenzo, Santissima Annunziata and the Chiesa del Carmine, as well as churches in Bologna, Lucca and Pistoia. Lomi worked in Genoa between 1597 and 1604, and altarpieces by him are today to be found in Santa Maria in Castello, San Siro, Santa Anna, Santa Maria Maddalena and other churches in the city and elsewhere in Liguria. Among the handful of paintings by Lomi outside Italy is a canvas of Christ Washing the Feet of Saint Peter in the Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts.