

# STEPHEN ONGPIN FINE ART



**Emilio SAVONANZI (Bologna 1580 - Camerino 1660)**

**A Seated Figure of the Physician Crinas [recto]; A Seated Male Nude and Studies of Three Heads, One a Caricature [verso]**

Red chalk.

The verso in red chalk.

Numbered 117 at the lower right, and inscribed F on the verso.

192 x 264 mm. (7 5/8 x 10 1/8 in.)

Although contemporary sources such as Cesare Malvasia note that Emilio Savonanzi was a prolific draughtsman who attended the drawing academy at the Palazzo Barberini in Rome and often won prizes for his drawings, surviving examples of his draughtsmanship are rare.

Previously attributed to Annibale Carracci, the present sheet was correctly identified as a drawing by Savonanzi by Hugh Macandrew in 1978. It is a preparatory study for a lunette fresco of the physician Crinas of Marseilles in the Old Pharmacy of the Collegio Romano, the Jesuit seminary in Rome.

Painted between 1629 and 1630, the decoration of the room was a collaboration with the Roman painter Andrea Sacchi, with Savonanzi painting ten lunette frescoes of the founders of medicine, botany and pharmacy on the walls while Sacchi was responsible for a ceiling fresco of the Virgin and Child with Four Saints.

Crinas of Marseilles was a physician who believed that illness was related to astrology, hence the addition of a large globe or armillary sphere in both the fresco and this preparatory drawing. While the position of the legs of Crinas are similar in both the drawing and the fresco, this drawing differs from the fresco in the positions of the torso and hands of the figure, the glance of the figure and the position of the globe.

The various studies in red chalk on the verso include a caricature head in profile, and reveal an interest in caricature shared by other artists of the period, such as the Carracci, Guercino, Pier Francesco Mola and Bernini.

**Provenance:**

Hans Calmann, London, in April 1969

Herbert List, Munich (Lugt 4063), his drystamp at the lower right

Acquired in 1972 with the rest of List's collection of Italian drawings by Wolfgang Ratjen, Munich

The Stiftung Ratjen, Vaduz, Liechtenstein

Anonymous sale, London, Christie's, 10 December 1991, lot 136.

### **Literature:**

Richard Harprath et al., Stiftung Ratjen: Italienische Zeichnungen des 16.-18. Jahrhunderts, exhibition catalogue, Munich and elsewhere, 1977-1978, pp.150-151, no.69 (as attributed to Annibale Carracci)  
Keith Andrews, 'Italienische Zeichnungen des 16.-18. Jahrhunderts: Stiftung Ratjen' [book review], Apollo, December 1978, p.451.

### **Artist description:**

Born into a noble Bolognese family, the painter Emilio Savonanzi was, according to the biographer Cesare Malvasia, a pupil of Giovanni Battista Cremonini, Denys Calvaert and Ludovico Carracci in Bologna, and may also have trained with Guido Reni in Rome. The influence of other Bolognese artists, notably Giacomo Cavedone and Guercino, can also be seen in such paintings by Savonanzi as The Death of Saint Joseph in the church of San Mamante in Medicina. Among other significant works by the artist is an altarpiece of Saint Ciriaca Burying the Martyrs, painted between 1623 and 1625 for the church of San Lorenzo fuori le Mura in Rome and showing the influence of Guercino. Several paintings by the artist are to be found in the town of Camerino, where he settled in 1639 and remained until his death in 1660.