

Conrad MEYER (Zurich 1619 - Zurich 1689)

Study of a Horse

Pen and grey ink, with touches of white heightening, on paper washed a pale brown.
Signed and dated Conrad Meyer fecit. / Ao. 1653. at the lower right.
349 x 408 mm. (13 3/4 x 16 in.)

A stylistically comparable pen and brown ink drawing of Two Skulls on a Ledge by Conrad Meyer was sold at auction in Amsterdam in 1989. Also similar in handling, although more complex in medium and probably intended as a finished work in its own right, is A Standing Wild Man, dated 1649, which was recently acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Artist description:

The son and pupil of Dietrich Meyer, Conrad Meyer completed his artistic training in the Frankfurt studio of the printmaker Matthäus Merian the Younger. He continued to work in Germany, mainly in Frankfurt and Augsburg, in the early years of his career before returning to settle in his native Zurich in 1643. There he was soon established as a prolific and successful portrait painter and engraver. As a painter Meyer produced mainly portraits – including many of the leading citizens of Zurich – as well as landscapes, but he later came to specialize in engravings on copper. Meyer's oeuvre as an engraver numbers over a thousand prints, notably portraits and allegorical subjects. He also engraved a handful of important maps and charts, notably an important 1657 map of Switzerland and the Planisphaerium Coeleste, a celestial map published in 1681. In 1655 Meyer is known to have travelled for several weeks in the Alps making landscape drawings in the company of the Dutch artist Jan Hackaert.