

STEPHEN ONGPIN FINE ART



Avigdor ARIKHA (Rădăuți 1928 - Paris 2010)

Coin Purse

Pastel.

Signed and dated *Arikha 86* in pencil at the lower centre edge.

Inscribed *For Janie* in pencil at the lower left and *Happy birthday 23.IV.87* in pencil at the lower right and along the bottom of the right edge of the sheet.

237 x 155 mm. (9 3/8 x 6 1/8 in.)

The present sheet belongs with a group of pastel drawings that Avigdor Arikha produced in the 1980s. As the artist later recalled, writing in the introduction to the catalogue of an exhibition of his pastels held in 2007, in which this work was included, '*One winter afternoon, during the first months of 1983, I was present at the arrival and unpacking of a crate at the Cabinet des Dessins of the Louvre. It contained the pastel-portrait of Madame Tronchin by Jean-Etienne Liotard. Its impact was such that I rushed to get pastels on the very next morning. I had not practiced this medium since the early '50s...The twenty-five pastel paintings in this exhibition were never exhibited nor published, remaining hidden in their drawer until now.*' The use of pastel became an important part of Arikha's artistic process, and the medium was applied not only to drawing paper or tinted board, but also soft velvet paper and emery paper.