

JOHN MITCHELL

FINE PAINTINGS



Charles-Antoine Coypel (Paris 1694 - 1752)

Don Quichotte servi par les filles de l'hôtellerie

oil on canvas

*'And never sure was any knight
So served by damsel or by dame
As Quixote was, one happy night
When from his village first he came:
Maids waited on that man of might
Princesses on his steed, whose name is Rocinante,
Good ladies, and mine is Don Quixote de la Mancha.'*

Don Quixote, Part 1, Chapter II.

Charles-Antoine Coypel painted this scene from the story of Don Quixote's travels in 1751. It completed a famous series of twenty-eight cartoons for tapestries made by the Manufacture Royale des Gobelins. Commissioned in 1715 by the Bâtiments du Roi (the Royal Household) Coypel painted the majority of the cartoons between 1725 and 1740. The Histoire de Don Quichotte represented the first and most important commission of Coypel's working career.

Provenance:

1919, 14 November: Vente de Mademoiselle X, Paris Hôtel Drouot, salle 11, (commissaire priseur M..F Lair – Dubreuil); exp: Marinas Paulme et Georges B-Lasquin, no.12. 3,100 francs : 'Coypel (Ch)... Don Quichotte servi par les filles de l'hostellerie. Toile. Esquisse pour un carton de tapisserie des Gobelins de la série de l'Histoire de Don Quichotte'

Literature:

Charles Coypel (1694-1752) by Thierry Lefrançois, Athena, Paris, 1994.p. 395-396, no. 367