



Jean-Pierre Granger (1779 - 1840)

Bacchus and Ariadne

oil on canvas

36.4 x 28.4cm (14 5/16 x 11 3/16in).

with fine Charles X frame

£12,500

In this lovely painting by a neoclassical pupil of David, Bacchus has come to the rescue of Ariadne on the island of Naxos, where she had been abandoned by Theseus. Ariadne's crown has already turned into a constellation of stars and Bacchus is about to fling it into the heavens, while his retinue await out at sea beyond. The sculptural handling of the figures and slightly stylized faces may seem affected to modern tastes, but would have been the height of fashion in the period.

The subject of this well-preserved and very finely executed picture fits in well with others by Granger in French museums today – Titus reçoit les hommages du peuple de la Campanie (Amiens), Pelée & Andromaque (Clermont-Ferrand) and Homer and the shepherd Glaucus (Dijon), and, most notably, Antiochus renvoie le fils de Scipion à son père (Paris, Ecole nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts), for which Granger won the Prix de Rome in 1800. Together with Ingres, he left for Rome in 1805 and during his five-year stay worked for Lucien Bonaparte, drawing his collection of antiquities. In 1812 he returned to Paris and exhibited at the salon every year until his death, winning medals in 1812, 1817 and 1820.