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(Asian Hunt) Asiatische Jagt. Ancipites inter numeratur pugna leonum, Omnibus ast bellum viribus Indus adit.

Stock#: 89435
Map Maker: Rugendas (I and II)
Date: 1740 circa
Place: Augsburg
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 14.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

This mezzotint, titled *Asiatische Jagt* and created by George Philipp Rugendas in Augsburg around 1740, captures a dramatic moment of Asian hunters engaged in a perilous battle with a lion. Rendered in a rare blue ink, the print vividly portrays a group of hunters, some mounted on horseback, wielding polearms, and a male lion ferociously attacking a fallen hunter.

In the mid-18th century, European art witnessed a surge in orientalist themes, fueled by a growing fascination with the East and its perceived exoticism. Rugendas, a member of a renowned family of artists from Augsburg, was known for his skill in capturing dynamic and intense scenes. *Asiatische Jagt* stands as an embodiment of this trend, offering a Western interpretation of an Eastern scene. The depiction of the Asian hunters, resplendent in their traditional attire and engaged in the dangerous sport of lion hunting, is indicative of the period's romanticized and often dramatized view of Eastern cultures.

The choice of mezzotint and blue ink in this piece is particularly noteworthy. Mezzotint, known for its capacity to produce rich tones and subtle gradations of light, was a popular medium for capturing depth and drama in prints during the 18th century. The unusual use of blue ink, rather than the more common black, adds a unique visual element to the print, enhancing the scene's exotic and mysterious aura.

Asiatische Jagt not only serves as a striking example of 18th-century orientalist art but also provides valuable insights into the era's cultural perceptions and artistic trends. The depiction of the fierce battle, underscored by the intensity of the lion's attack and the hunters' valiant efforts, reflects a fascination with



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both the danger and allure of the exotic East.

Rarity

Even in black ink, this print is extremely rare. In blue ink, it might be unique.

Detailed Condition:

Mezzotint in blue ink on laid paper. A few expert marginal repairs.