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JONAS ÅKERSTRÖM

(Rogsta, Sweden, 1759 - Rome, 1795)

Mythical Sea Bull with Nereid, Carrying a Casket to Poseidon's Wedding Feast
bears inscription (lower right): *Åkerström*

brown ink and brown wash heightened with white

185 x 301 mm

Copy:

By Gustaf af Sillén (1762-1825), Nationalmuseum (NMH 287/1919 recto)

Comparative literature:

B. Rapp, Jonas Åkerström. Ett gustavianskt konstnärsöde, 1998, p. 163, under number 78: 5a och 5b, p. 250 under number 192b, no. 3

This drawing is based on one of the scenes in the Poseidon frieze in the Palazzo Santa Croce in Rome, one of two marble reliefs executed in Rome c. 65 BC., each c. 80 cm high, one depicting Poseidon and Amphitrite's nuptials, the other a lustra.

Jonas Åkerström probably depicted all the scenes in the two reliefs. However, apart from the present work only two pencil drawings with motifs from the Poseidon frieze are today known (National Museum NMH 26/1909). The majority of Åkerström's lost originals are known through copies by Gustaf af Sillén (1762-1825) executed during in Rome between December 1790 - July 1791 during his stay in Italy 1787-1793.