



MICHEL II CORNEILLE

(Paris, 1642 - Paris, 1708)

Studies of heads, for 'Aspasia among the philosophers of Greece', Château de Versailles
later attribution to Noël Coypel (lower centre)

red and black chalk

175 x 230 mm

Provenance:

Private collection, Paris

The sheet has not before been connected to a work by the artist. We now know it to be the sheet on which Corneille worked out the poses and expressions for his painting 'Aspasia among the philosophers of Greece', made in 1673 for the ceiling of the Salon des Nobles in the queen's apartment in the Château de Versailles. In 1671, when the construction of the large apartments began, Corneille had just returned from a long stay in Italy, where he had become particularly inspired with the work of Raphael.