



GIOVANNI BATTISTA NALDINI

(Fiesole, c. 1537 - Florence, 1591)

Fishermen on a river, possibly the Arno, Florence
unidentified collection mark on verso, L.4181

inscribed on verso in grey pencil: *Naldini*; inscribed on verso in blue ink; *propriété de [...]*

black chalk, pen and brown ink, brown wash

275 x 170 mm

This drawing of fishermen on a river is indicative of the vibrant artistic dialogue of mid-to late 16th century Florence, fostered by Giorgio Vasari (1511 – 1574) and the members of the newly founded Accademia del Disegno. Although the penwork is distinctly Naldini's, the image itself is closely related to the fishing and hunting scenes of Jan van der Straet, Stradanus (1523 – 1605). Philips Galle's print series after Stradanus' designs, *Venationes, ferarum, arium, piscium*, undoubtedly informed the present composition.

Of the engravings after Stradanus' designs the present drawing can be compared most closely to plate 98 of the series, *Fishing with drag nets*, which contains a similar pictorial arrangement with figures fishing in the foreground, a river receding into the distance, and a bridge at back right with buildings behind that. Two miniature figures carrying staffs can be seen crossing the bridge in both images. The

comparable orientation of the drawing and the print, and the correlation between the hat-wearing figure at centre right plunging a pole into the river may suggest that Naldini drew his inspiration directly from this print rather than Stradanus' drawing, which is in the Getty Museum, New York.

Please contact us for a full catalogue entry.