

STEFANO DELLA BELLA

(Florence, 1610 - Florence, 1664)

A farmhouse among trees

pen and brown ink and wash over black chalk

109 x 251 mm

Provenance:

Christie's, London: 10 December 1991, Lot 147

with Baskett & Day, London

where acquired by the present owner

Literature:

Italian 17th Century Drawings from British Private Collections, exh. cat. Edinburgh, 1972, p. 42, no. 109, illustrated p. 108

Exhibited:

Edinburgh, Merchant's Hall, *Italian 17th Century Drawings from British Private Collections*, 1972, no. 109

Little known today as a painter, Stefano della Bella achieved great renown in his lifetime for his work as an etcher, and in more recent times his role as an inventive and highly industrious draughtsman has received greater appreciation. This drawing is a relatively unusual example in della Bella's considerable graphic oeuvre of a pure landscape, unpopulated by staffage or animals. In the centre of the sheet a farmhouse is bordered by trees, and to the right, a rocky slope runs down towards the left. In the treatment of the details of the landscape the sheet may be compared with *A landscape with farm buildings and animals* in the Royal Collection, Windsor, and *Landscape with a farmhouse* at the Uffizi, Florence. These drawings are typical of the landscapes first produced by della Bella in Paris, from the mid-1640s onwards, when he eschewed the parallel-hatching technique garnered from Jacques Callot, and incorporated the newfound influence of Dutch landscape prints, in particular that of the painter-etchers Herman van Swanevelt and Jan Both.

Please contact us for a full catalogue entry.