

Study for 'Mirth'

George Romney



Description

George Romney (1734-1802)
Study for 'Mirth'

Pen and brown ink on laid paper, with sums verso
11 by 7.2 cm., 4 ¼ by 2 ¾ in.

Provenance:
With Michael Spratt as 'A Bacchante';
Private Collection

This is a study for an oil dating to circa 1771. It shows a woman, possibly the actress Mrs Jordan, dancing while playing a tambourine. It was engraved by Robert Dunkarton and published by Robert Sayer on 1st October 1771.

In an email of 1 November 2018, Alex Kidson writes: "My immediate instinct is that the drawing is to do with the picture titled Mirth, after Milton [his poem "L'Allegro"] (my [2002] catalogue, no 28) and to me the style corresponds to this date, but I agree the pose is not similar to any of those finally used in the painting and I do not insist on this."