Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Peter Docherty Ballet Costume Design, 1968

£595

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REF: 5115

Description

A striking original ballet costume design by Peter Docherty (1944-2020), signed and dated 1968. Executed in pencil and watercolour, the work captures the creative process behind theatrical costume at a moment when drawing remained central to the development of character, movement, colour, and stage presence.

The composition combines the precision of pencil with the fluidity of watercolour, allowing the artist to define the costume's silhouette and construction while conveying the effect of fabric, colour, and light under theatrical conditions. More than a decorative sketch, it is a working design: an imaginative but practical proposal for a costume intended to support the dancer's movement and contribute to the visual language of a ballet production.

Docherty was recognised for costume designs that brought together inventive visual ideas with a close understanding of performance. His work reflects the essential role of costume in theatrical storytelling, where dress can establish character, period, mood, and dramatic atmosphere before a performer has spoken or moved.

Signed and dated 1968, this drawing has the added appeal of being a complete and individual work on paper, as well as a record of the collaborative world of theatre and ballet production. It would make a distinctive addition to a collection of theatre design, costume illustration, ballet memorabilia, or 20th-century works on paper.

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