Joseph Southal - Study for New Lamps for Old

Joseph Edward Southall

£4,500



REF: JS12

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Description

JOSEPH SOUTHALL, RWS, NEAC, RBSA(1861-1944)
Study for “New Lamps for Old”, 1900-01
Signed with monogram and dated in gold l.r.: JES / 1901Watercolour over traces of pencil
12.5 by 9 cm., 4 ¾ by 3 ½ in.
Provenance:The Piccadilly Gallery, London
The subject is from a scene from the story of Aladdin from the Tales of the Arabian Nights. Despite the theme involving the trickery of a magician in which he exchanges his new lamps with Aladdin’s magical old lamp, it has been suggested that the title deliberately chimes with the dawn of the twentieth century. The final tempera painting is full of personal significance for Southall, depicting many of the artist’s Birmingham Quaker associates (to the background - somewhat in the manner of a Venetian sacra conversazione) as well as fellow artists. This and the following work are a study for the female figure to the centre left of the final picture.