

Johann Christoph Rist, Floodplain landscape with hunters and dogs near Vienna, 1817, etching on paper, 148 x 212 mm (image), 169 x 218 mm (plate), 184 x 233 mm (sheet), inscribed recto below the image „Zur freundschaftlichen Erinnerung für Hrn. Jos. Grünling in Wien“ and verso handwritten „11367 /Molitor? / Vue d’une foret près d’une riviere / 399“.

The picture was provided – in museum quality – with a new passe-partout (40 x 50 cm) of the company HALBE. A fitting frame – in museum quality – with museum glass (anti-reflective, very high UV protection, anti-static, abrasion resistant) of the company HALBE can be provided on request.

Johann Christoph Rist (1790 Stuttgart – 1876 Augsburg) was highly regarded in the 19th century, especially for his drawings and etchings. After his early years of training in Stuttgart, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. There, he was awarded the Academy Prize in 1816 for a landscape painting. This was followed by a stay in Italy, during which he spent a long time in Rome before returning to Vienna in 1820.

In 1823, he received a scholarship from the academy for a further study trip to Italy. In 1824, following the death of his brother, the well-known engraver Gottfried Rist (1789–1824), who was also working in Rome, Christoph returned to Germany and settled in Augsburg. In the 1830s, he also appears to have lived in Munich. Back in Augsburg, he taught at the local drawing school and was elected to its board of directors. He died in Augsburg in 1876.

This sheet from 1817, which is in very good condition overall and was created during Rist's time in Vienna, appears to be part of a series of landscape etchings from that year, which Georg Kaspar Nagler (Nagler 1843, p. 207) praises. It shows a meadow landscape at the edge of a densely wooded forest, probably in the vicinity of Vienna. While two hunters are resting by a river branch in the foreground and their dog is drinking from the water, another hunter with a dog can be seen in the background chasing a doe on the left edge of the picture, which is turning back towards the two hunters.

Below the image, the dedication “Zur freundschaftlichen Erinnerung für Hrn. Jos. Grünling in Wien” (In friendly memory of Mr. Jos. Grünling in Vienna), also etched, refers to the famous Viennese graphic art collector Joseph von Grünling (1785–c. 1845). In the early 19th century, his collection was considered to be on a par with that of the Albertina. At the beginning of the 1820s, he decided to focus solely on printmaking. In 1823, his collection of drawings was auctioned off, and many of the works found their way into other renowned private collections or into the holdings of important art and cultural institutions. His famous collection of Dürer drawings in particular has been the subject of research in recent years.

If the sheet had been created for Grünling, this would certainly have been an honor for Johann Christoph Rist. Since auction catalogs in Vienna were still written in French well into the 19th century, the French inscriptions on the back of the sheet could indicate a Viennese provenance. Further copies of our etching can be found in important museums such as the British Museum in London.