

Basic Detail Report



Two Politicians

Date

ca. 1857

Primary Maker

Thomas Couture

Medium

Pencil on paper | Chalk

Description

This is a pencil and chalk drawing on blue paper, toned to cream. It is a finished preparatory drawing for a painting titled *Pierrot the Politician*. It presents the interior of a room with two figures, a harlequin and Pierrot, looking at a newspaper as they face each other. The one on the left is in the dress of a Pierrot, billowy and white. Only his profile, with medium long hair, is visible to the viewer. The harlequin facing him is shown from the back of his head. The Harlequin reads a newspaper; the Pierrot holds a lit cigar in his right hand. The left side of the room is in shadows, but the Pierrot catches some of the light which spotlights the Harlequin and the wall behind them on the right side of the room. Behind the Harlequin is a black top hat on its side and an overcoat thrown over a chair. In the background is an arrangement of four bottles. There is also a pipe on the table with the bottles. In the foreground under the Harlequin is a crumpled bit of paper.

Dimensions

Overall: 16 3/4 x 21 5/8 in. (42.5 x 54.9 cm)