



St. Étienne-du-Mont, Paris

Date

1852

Primary Maker

Charles Méryon

Medium

Etching

Description

Charles Meryon Paris 1821–1868 Charenton-le-Pont St. Etienne du Mont, from Eaux-fortes sur Paris 1852 Etching Plate: 9 3/4 x 5 1/8 inches (24.8 x 13 cm) Sheet: 12 9/16 x 7 7/16 inches (31.9 x 18.9 cm) Delteil/Wright 30 iv/viii; Schneiderman 25 iv/viii Bequest of William P. Chapman, Jr., Class of 1895 57.298 Meryon's Parisian etchings include numerous towers, often depicted, as in this view, within a narrow vertical format that creates an almost dizzying effect. If these towers soar, it is out of the shadows of dark streets. Many of Meryon's views are disturbing, and in some instances even menacing—other moods of the Romantic artist that contrast even more markedly with the progressive expository styles of earlier vedutisti. Meryon's working method involved assembling his views later from small individual drawings made on

the spot,²⁰ rather than objectively presenting a perspectival or topographical view. Here, he has hemmed in the church of St. Etienne at left with the medieval building of the College de Montaigu (since demolished) and at right by one massive wall of the nearby Pantheon, which adjoins the square but is in reality much further away. In so doing, he creates a fictitious, tortuous pathway to the church's beautiful façade, which is in reality unencumbered by other buildings. Stuart M. Blumin ²⁰ Dodgson, Etchings of Charles Meryon, 6.

Dimensions

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