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## JEAN ANTOINE WATTEAU

Valenciennes 1684 - 1721 Nogent sur Marne

*"Viosseu" or Chinese Musician;  
Chinese Woman of Kouei Tchéou*

A Pair, both oil on canvas, 23.4 by 18.2 cm.



*Provenance:* Painted for the King's cabinet, Château de la Muette, circa 1708-1716;  
Possibly anonymous sale, Paris 28-29 April 1829, lots 71 and 72 (as lot 71,  
Antoine Watteau, *Composition de deux figures de Chinois, dont l'un joue de la  
vielle* and lot 72, *Jeune fille assise dans un jardin; près d'elle est un jeune garçon;  
Pendant du precedent*);

*Chinese Musician only:*

Possibly Bezançon de Wagner;

Anonymous sale, New York, Sotheby's, 11 January 1996, lot 151;

*Chinese Woman only:*

Private collection, Switzerland, 2009; acquired through Sotheby's private treaty  
sale, November 2009.

*Exhibited:* New Orleans, 1997, no. 68 (*Chinese Musician* only);  
Brussels, Palais de Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles, *Antoine Watteau (1684-1721). La  
Leçon de musique*, 8 February - 12 May 2013, nos. 125 and 126;  
Paris, Musée Jacquemart-André, *De Watteau à Fragonard, Les fêtes galantes*, 14  
March - 21 July, 2014, nos. 10 and 11;  
*Besançon, Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Archéologie, Une des Provinces du Rococo.  
La Chine rêvée de François Boucher*, 8 November 2019 – 2 March 2020,

*Literature:* E. de Goncourt, *Catalogue raisonné de l'oeuvre peint, dessiné et gravé d'Antoine  
Watteau*, Paris 1875, p. 194, cat. nos. 227 and 228;  
E. Dacier and A. Vuafart, *Jean de Julienne et les graveurs de Watteau*, 1921-  
1922, cat. nos. 232 and 233 (for the engravings after the paintings);  
H. Adhémar and R. Huyghe, *Watteau, sa vie — son oeuvre*, Paris 1950, pp. 203-  
204, under cat. no. 18 (lost decorations for the Chateau de la Muette; engraving  
after *Chinese Musician* reproduced p. 96);  
F. Gétéreau, "Watteau et sa génération: contribution à la chronologie et à

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l'identification de deux instruments," in *Imago Musicae*, 1987, pp. 303, 307  
(*Chinese Musician* only);  
P. Stein, "Boucher's chinoiseries: some new sources," in *The Burlington Magazine*,  
vol. 138, September 1996, p. 599, note 8 (*Chinese Musician* only);  
M. Eidelberg and S. Gopin, "Watteau's Chinoiseries at La Muette," in *Gazette des  
Beaux-Arts*, vol. 130, July/August 1997, p. 26, reproduced fig. 14 (*Chinese  
Musician* only; as a copy after the engraving);  
New Orleans, 1997, pp. 173-175, reproduced;  
M. Roland-Michel, in *The Age of Watteau, Chardin and Fragonard. Masterpieces  
of French Genre Painting*, exhibition catalogue, Ottawa 2003, pp. 115-116,  
reproduced fig. 77 (*Chinese Musician* only);  
K. Scott, "Playing Games with Otherness: Watteau's Chinese Cabinet at the  
Chateau de La Muette," in *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, vol.  
66, 2003, pp.196-197, reproduced fig. 3 (*Chinese Musician* only; as Attributed to  
Watteau);  
G. Glorieux, *Watteau*, Paris 2011, pp. 56-58, reproduced p. 57 (*Chinese Musician  
only; as possibly a modello*);  
N.P. Lallement, in *Antoine Watteau (1684-1721). La Leçon de musique*, exhibition  
catalogue, Brussels 2013, pp. 207-208, cat. no. 125 and 126, reproduced;  
M. Taverner-Holmes, in *De Watteau à Fragonard, Les fêtes galantes*, exhibition  
catalogue, Paris 2014, pp. 58-59,209, cat. nos. 10 and 11, reproduced p. 59 (as circa  
1708).