

Skippings Fine Arts

presents

Moby Dick



Detail from one of the illustrations for *Moby Dick*, graphite on paper

It is always such a joy when the visual and literary art meet. And so I was excited when I unearthed five original illustrations for Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. They were almost certainly intended for an illustrated edition of the novel, although I am not sure if they ever got published. It does not help research that the artist only monogrammed his drawings with a mysterious "mp".



Illustration for *Moby Dick*, graphite on paper 30 x 37 cm

The works of art date from the second half of the 1940s, one of them being dated (19)47.



Illustration for *Moby Dick*, graphite on paper 30 x 37 cm



The monogram



While sharing the modernist, stylised aesthetic of Rockwell Kent's illustrations on the same theme, the drawings are absolutely novel, distinctly individual, vigorous and dynamic.



The Whale: illustration for *Moby Dick*, graphite on paper, 30 x 37 cm

Their provenance is impeccable: they belonged to Gabriel Gomichon des Granges (1904-1971), a lawyer-turned-oceanographer and fine art collector who moved to Vanuatu in the 1930s. He was a friend of ethnologists Paul Rivet and Georges Henri Rivière, the founding fathers of the "Musée de l'Homme. Oceanic art collected by Gomichon des Granges found its way into museum collections. The Moby Dick drawings testify of his love for the sea, sailing, adventure and the Pacific Ocean.



Illustration for *Moby Dick*, graphite on paper, 37 x 30 cm

The drawings are in very good condition. Glass and acidic backing board were removed from some of them, but the simple original black wooden gallery frames are available upon request.

You may wish to update the framing with crisper mounts, or even present several of the works together in one large frame. While I would love the drawings to remain together, they could be made available individually. Please contact us for details, availability, framing options and prices.

