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Odoardo Borrani (Pisa, 1833 - Florence, 1905)

Le Clin d'oeil ("The wink")

Signed or inscribed lower centre "Borrani"

Black chalk on paper

230 x 240 mm.



Odoardo Borrani (22 August 1833 – 14 September 1905) was an Italian painter associated with the Macchiaioli group. He was born in Pisa. The Borrani family moved to Florence, where Odoardo enrolled at the Academy of Fine Arts in 1853. There, he studied under Gaetano Bianchi [it], Giuseppe Bezzuoli, and Enrico Pollastrini.

In 1859, he painted *Lorenzo the Magnificent Saves Himself From Being Murdered in the Sacristy of the Cathedral*, an episode of the Pazzi Conspiracy. For this painting, Borrani was awarded the Gold medal by the contest of the Accademia of Florence. That same year, he joined the army and upon returning from the short campaign, he painted the *Cadaver of Jacopo de' Pazzi* and *Michelangelo Directs the Fortification of Florence*. He experienced his greatest inspiration in the years when he kept company with Telemaco Signorini (1835-1901) and Vincenzo Cabianca (1827-1902) at Caffè Michelangelo - the haunting ground of the Macchiaioli - and later in Castiglioncello, on the estate of Diego Martelli (1839-1896), where he fully experimented with the new styles and techniques, permanently abandoning the academic principles. Artistically, his most creative and fruitful years were those of the so-called 'School of Piagentina' which he founded in 1863 with his colleagues Raffaello Sernesi (1838-1866), Silvestro Lega (1826-1895) and Giuseppe Abbati (1836-1868).