

## David with the Head of Goliath

By Guido Reni, 1575-1642

Ink, about 1620



Reni was a prominent artist of the Bolognese school in Italy, who later became one of the most important painters working in Rome.

This sketch illustrates a scene from the biblical story of David and Goliath. The young shepherd boy David stands next to the severed head of the giant Goliath, after killing him with a single shot from his slingshot.

Reni made a number of paintings of the same subject. The best known are in the Louvre in Paris and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Another was discovered in a private collection in Scotland in 1985.

This drawing is thought to be a preliminary sketch for one of these paintings. The fluidity of the line and the revised contours, particularly around the outstretched arm, show how Reni was constantly refining and improving the composition.

Purchased in 1891