

**Rinze Hamstra, *Eli Lama Sabachtani***  
Amsterdam 1895 – 1974 Zeist

chalk on paper

31 ½ by 23 5/8 inches (80 by 60 cm.)

signed, dated and inscribed: '*ELI, LAMA SABACHTANI. / RINZE. HAMSTRA. 1937*'

provenance: Private collection, The Netherlands;  
with Mireille Mosler Ltd. in 2017

note: Born and trained as a painter in Amsterdam, Hamstra lived in Blaricum, Hilversum and for the last four decades of his life in Zeist. Besides his career as an artist, Hamstra founded an advertising agency in the 1930s in Amsterdam, specializing in the enlargement of photographs. Hamstra introduced a technique to magnify images without pixilation and was one of the first to introduce photography in advertising. In 1931, Hamstra was tasked with the redevelopment of the seventeenth century Amsterdam city center and made the urban design for the Rokin. In 1935, the Rijksmuseum acquired several drawings and prints by Hamstra and included him in a group exhibition four years later.

Although Rinze Hamstra was a successful advertising executive and city planner, in his art he often found inspiration in the New Testament. The subject of the present drawing is the fourth of the *Saying of Jesus on the Cross* from the Gospel of Matthew and part of the Christian meditation used on Good Fridays. *Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachtani*, or *my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*, can be interpreted as an abandonment of the Son by the Father or as a cry of the forsaken one, deserted by friends and God. For Hamstra's inspiration, spirituality and Christianity played an important role, and it was the artist's intention to create a powerful and haunting sacred image for his audience. The image of the suffering Christ has a long artistic tradition, and Hamstra's work clearly refers back to this earlier convention. (figs. 1, 2 & 3)

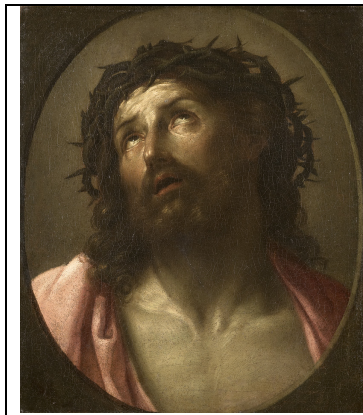


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3