

Basic Detail Report

Title Napoleon Crossing the Alps.

Date 1845-1846

Primary Maker Jacques Louis David

Medium Lithography; printer's ink and watercolor on wove paper

Description A man sits astride a rearing horse on a rock ledge with mountains in the background. He wears a cocked hat, a coat trimmed with braid, breeches, boots with spurs, gloves, and a sash. Two medals are pinned to his breast. His cloak blows in the wind behind him. The horse has an ornate saddle blanket and bridle. The man points towards the left with his right hand. Behind him, in the background, a marching column of soldiers ascends a steep trail over a mountain pass. A cannon on a caisson and a man on horseback are visible at the far left. This composition is surrounded by a oval frame. In the corners, four separate vignettes depict the same man in various poses, from upper left to right: seated on a rock looking at a large book, possibly an atlas; seated backwards in a chair; standing on a rock with his hand tucked inside his vest; standing on a rock, seen from behind.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (image height x width): 9 15/16 x 7 7/8in. (25.2 x 20cm) Sheet (height x width): 14 1/4 x 10 3/16in. (36.2 x 25.9cm)