



8. Brotherly Love

Alexandre Mitchell, 2023 (42 x 59cm, Indian ink)



Gold coin [Solidus, Constantinople, Justinian II (692-695 AD)]

This drawing captures the turbulent medieval relationship between Venice and Constantinople, two Christian power centers—Latin Catholic and Greek Orthodox. In 1204, Venice redirected the Fourth Crusade to sack Constantinople, marking the first large-scale Christian-on-Christian massacre. Despite deep religious fervor, economic interests prevailed. The gold coin from the reign of Justinian II (late 7th c. CE), is a stark reminder that even though the portrait of the emperor is inscribed "servus christi" ("servant of Christ"), money and power can corrupt the noblest minds—then and now.