



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Rest On The Flight Into Egypt - Attributed To Pieter Van Avont (1600-1652) 17th Century Antwerp

12 800 EUR



Signature : Pieter Van Avont (1600-1652)

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 68,5 cm

Height : 56 cm

Description

Rest during the Flight into Egypt - The Virgin and Child with St. John the Baptist and the angels in a Landscape.

Attributed to Pieter Van Avont (1600-1652)

17th century Antwerp School, circa 1630

Oil on oak panel,

Dimensions: h. 38 cm, w. 50 cm

Flemish style frame in ebonized and moulded wood veneered with red tortoiseshell.

Framed: h. 56 cm, w. 68.5 cm

In the heart of a lush wooded landscape, the Virgin with Jesus rests in a green clearing accompanied by Saint John the Baptist and the cherubs. Seated to the left of the composition, the Virgin Mary holds the Child on her lap; the little Saint John the Baptist wearing the camel-skin

Dealer

Galerie Nicolas Lenté

furniture and works of art from the Middle Ages to 18th century

Mobile : 06 64 42 84 66

2, rue des Saints-Pères

Paris 75007

tunic (his attribute) stands before Jesus to exchange a few caresses. On the right, the couple of cherubs are playing with the lamb of Saint John the Baptist, bringing a jovial character to the scene. A pair of gardening putti on the left pick flowers to bring bouquets to the Virgin and Jesus. Spring flowers such as tulips, daffodils and anemones that grow abundantly around them and enrich the composition with their shimmering colors. A lush rose bush blooms to the left of the figures offering delicate roses. (The rose is the flower associated with the Virgin Mary, who is the "mystical rose," the one that does not bear the "thorn of sin")

At the feet of the Virgin are bunches of grapes (symbol of the future passion of Christ) as well as apples (symbol of the original fall of Man but also of the Redemption in Christ) In the foreground we find a wicker basket filled in profusion with beautiful flowers and guinea pigs nibbling on the blades of grass. In a cleverly arranged disorder, these elements of the still life with their strong symbolic power accentuate the religious theme, but are also an opportunity for the artist to demonstrate his know-how in the still life genre that is gaining momentum in Antwerp.

The landscape behind the figures consists of a large tree with a twisted trunk and a luminous opening to the horizon placed on the right. We see Saint Joseph arriving with a donkey, a small reminder from the artist that the composition is associated with the episode of Rest during the flight into Egypt.

The calm expanse of this bucolic forest opening onto the luminous distance, with its profusion of symbolic flowers and fruits, is particularly suited to this sacred scene. The theme of Jesus' sacrifice and his tragic fate is mitigated by cherubs who play with innocence and carelessness in the face of the fragility of life symbolized by cut flowers.

The great mastery of the painter is manifested by the finesse of the drawing enhanced by the delicacy in the application of the brushstrokes bringing a multitude of details. The richness of

the whole is exacerbated thanks to the choice of colours, this varied palette is an undeniable asset of our work.

The virtuosity of our artist lies in his versatility, as much concerned with the success of the landscape and flowers as with the modelling of his figures. The cherubs with their naked bodies are gracefully illuminated by warm colours with subtle shadows, while the still life is rendered with astonishing realism, both in the precision of the drawing and in the countless shades of the flowers.

There are several compositions similar to ours, of which below are the closest versions:

- o Sale, Jean-Claude Anaf et Associés, Lyon, 08/02/1998, attributed to Pieter Van Avont, oil on panel, h. 48 cm, l. 71 cm (recorded on RKD n° 31451). Comment: identical composition, only St Joseph with the donkey is different)

- o Christie's New York sale, 29/01/1998, Pieter Van Avont, oil on copper, h. 23.8 cm, w. 24.8 cm

- o Dorotheum sale, Vienna, 25/04/2017, Pieter Van Avont and Jan Breughel II, oil on copper, h. 26 cm, w. 39 cm

- o Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia, Pieter Van Avont, oil on panel, height 50.5 cm, w. 71.7 cm

Peter von Avont, Flemish painter (Mechelen, 1600 - Antwerp. 1652)

Born in Mechelen, he is mentioned in 1620 as a member of the painters' guild of his hometown. He left in 1622 for Antwerp, where he was also a member of the guild. He collaborated with many painters, including Jan Bruegel the Younger, David Vinckboons, Lucas van Uden, Jacques d'Arthois, Lucas Achtschellinck, Lodewijk de Vadder, Izaak van Oosten and Jan Wildens. The painter is known for his paintings with mythological and religious scenes. One of the main features of his work is the group of naked children. In his many versions of the Holy Family, they appear in the various roles: baby

Jesus, St. John the Baptist, and the angels. They often bring offerings to the Virgin and Jesus. His figures with warm colors and delicate modeling are often depicted in landscapes of great finesse, which he executed himself, but also in collaboration with other artists...