



**PROANTIC**  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

## Charles Louis Verwee (1832-1882) A Possible Purchase



24 000 EUR

Signature : Charles Louis Verwee

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Length : 78 cm

Height : 98 cm

Depth : 7 cm

### Description

The painting "A Possible Purchase" by Charles Louis Verwee, a renowned Belgian artist, captures a delicate and poignant moment. In this piece, a woman is depicted standing in an opulent interior, absorbed in contemplation as she examines a framed portrait of a young girl. Her elegant attire, composed of a refined beige dress, contrasts beautifully with the rich red upholstery of the furniture. The scene is meticulously detailed, with objects such as a fringed shawl draped over a chair, decorative plates, and oriental fans adorning the walls, all contributing to the intimate and luxurious atmosphere. Verwee's mastery of light and shadow is evident in the soft illumination that highlights the woman's face and dress, creating a gentle chiaroscuro effect. The composition is dynamic

### Dealer

**Chastelain & Butes**

Art of the 19th century- Animalier bronzes

Mobile : +32477427471

Martelaarslaan 540

Gent 9000

yet balanced, guiding the viewer's eye from the woman's thoughtful expression to the framed portrait, and around the richly decorated room.

#### Provenance of the Painting

"A Possible Purchase" has an interesting provenance, having been part of several prestigious collections. It was previously owned by Eugene Iglesias of Hollywood, California, and before that, it was acquired from Anderson Galleries in Beverly Hills. The painting was also listed at a Butterfields auction in Los Angeles in 1999, further highlighting its journey through various esteemed hands. Currently, it is part of the collection of Chastelain & Butes.

#### Composition:

- o Subject Placement: At the heart of this painting, a woman dressed in an elegant beige dress leans forward to closely examine a framed portrait on a chair. Her placement slightly off-center to the right enhances the scene's dynamic nature.

- o Elements: The background is rich with decorative elements, including a red sofa, a wall adorned with various items like a plate and a fan, and a mirror reflecting part of the room. The foreground showcases the chair with the portrait and a fringed shawl draped over its back, adding texture and depth.

- o Perspective: The perspective is intimate, drawing the viewer into the room and focusing on the woman's interaction with the portrait. This creates a sense of personal engagement and curiosity about the relationship between the woman and the subject of the portrait.

#### Theme:

- o Reflection and Memory: The act of the woman closely examining the portrait suggests themes of reflection and memory, indicating a moment of personal contemplation or nostalgia.

- o Domesticity and Elegance: The setting, with its rich furnishings and detailed decor, conveys a sense of domestic comfort and elegance, highlighting the lifestyle and interior aesthetics of the period.

- o Influence of Contemporary Artists: The

intimate and anecdotal nature of the scene is reminiscent of the works of Alfred Stevens and Gustave Léonard De Jonghe, artists known for their detailed depictions of domestic life and nuanced portrayal of women's daily activities.

Use of Colors:

- o Warm Tones: Dominated by warm, rich tones, the painting features the red of the sofa and brown hues of the woman's dress and the room's wooden elements, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.

- o Contrast: The light-colored dress of the woman stands out against the darker background, drawing attention to her figure and her actions. The contrast between light and shadow adds depth and dimension to the scene.

- o Subtle Highlights: Subtle highlights on the woman's dress and face, as well as on the frame of the portrait and the decorative items, enhance the realism and add to the tactile quality of the various textures depicted.

Use of Light:

- o Directional Light: The light source appears to come from the left, illuminating the woman and the items in the foreground, creating shadows that add to the sense of depth and three-dimensionality.

- o Highlighting Focus: The lighting focuses on the woman and the portrait, emphasizing the interaction and drawing the viewer's eye to this central narrative element. The use of light and shadow also accentuates the textures and details of the furnishings and decor.

- o Atmospheric Effect: The overall lighting is warm and soft, contributing to an intimate and contemplative atmosphere. The reflections and subtle play of light and shadow evoke a sense of quiet elegance and introspection.

Additional Details:

- o Textural Elements: The detailed rendering of the woman's dress, the fringed shawl, and the upholstered furniture adds richness and a tactile quality to the painting, enhancing the sense of realism and immersion in the scene.

o Decorative Background: The decorated wall with various items, including a plate and a fan, adds cultural and historical context, suggesting the taste and interests of the household. The mirror also serves to expand the space visually and adds complexity to the composition.

### Context and Biography

#### Context and Biography of Charles Louis Verwee (1832-1882)

Charles Louis Verwee (1832-1882) was a notable Belgian painter, best known for his genre scenes and portraits. Born in Brussels, he was the son of Louis-Pierre Verwee, a celebrated landscape and animal painter, and the brother of Alfred Jacques Verwee, whose works are displayed at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium. This artistic environment profoundly influenced his development as a painter.

Initially trained by his father, Verwee later studied under prominent artists like Alfred Stevens and Gustave Léonard De Jonghe, which helped him refine his style. He participated in numerous art exhibitions, including the Brussels Salon in 1854, the Antwerp Salon in 1861, and later exhibitions in Ghent and Amsterdam.

Verwee's work often depicted scenes of domestic life and intimate moments, characterized by their anecdotal nature and fine attention to detail. His ability to capture the essence of his subjects with a sense of realism and emotional depth set him apart from his contemporaries. Notable works include "The Connoisseur in the Artist's Studio with his Dog," which showcases his keen observation skills and ability to infuse everyday scenes with narrative richness.

Verwee's paintings gained considerable acclaim during his lifetime, attracting the attention of notable collectors, including King Leopold II of Belgium. His work "Diplomacy," which depicts a lower-class character, is part of the royal collection, underscoring his versatility and appeal across different social strata.

Verwee passed away in Saint-Josse-ten-Noode in

1882, leaving behind a legacy of beautifully rendered scenes that capture the elegance and intricacies of 19th-century Belgian society.