



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Paul Mantes - Broken Diane - 20th Century

1 150 EUR



Signature : Paul MANTES

Period : 20th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 74 cm

Width : 50 cm

Description

Paul Mantes was second Grand Prix de Rome in 1944, professor at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris, architect, copyist approved by the Louvre and Orsay. This character accumulates all the prizes, all the know-how, then turns at the end of his career to his passion for painting. His compositions are surrealist, borrowing from his predecessors such as Dali, but also creating some women reminding us of the curves of Botticelli, a drowned martyr by Delaroche, or his series of "Silence" evoking the Salvadore Mundi. His environments giving the feeling of a deep void are embellished with elements hooking us to his reality. His immense artistic culture, and his profession as an architect, some compasses, sections of walls cut into diamonds, spheres, Gothic rosettes are visible in

Dealer

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19th/20th Century Antiques

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Sous Réserve

Beuzeville 27210

his compositions.

The subject treated here is a "Broken Diana".

Unlike earlier representations by Poussin,

Boucher, Rubens, she is not victorious, and the

hunting scene is not to her advantage, she does

not lead the fight since she seems to have lost.

The base of the statue is upside down, her head is

detached from the rest of the bust, her wooden

bow broken. The moon-shaped tiara tells us about

the identity of the goddess of the night. But in

what seemed like a temple with ancient

architecture, we see in the background that other

stones have come loose. She may sink, the place

seems abandoned, the reflection of a proud,

upright stag in the background on the right seems

to tell us that he has freed himself and is taking a

last look at his protector. The flowering water

lilies swallow Diana, she is no longer an

omnipotent goddess, nature is reclaiming its

rights.

Provenance: Estate sale, Atelier Paul MANTES

(1921-2004), DROUOT "Ader", Tuesday March

20, 2012.