



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Sicilian School, 17th Century, Satyros And Menades



3 800 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Alabaster

Length : 42

Width : 31

Description

Sicilian school, 17th century Satyros and Menades Alabaster, cm 42 x 31 This small alabaster is structured in two parts: the base, decorated with a meander frieze between two frames of plant motifs, and the two figures of the satyr and the menade above. In ancient mythology these two figures were closely related to the god Dionysus: the menads were women invaded by the life force of the god of intoxication, of which they were precisely followers, Whereas the satyr was a minor deity linked to the forest universe and usually associated with Dionysus or the god Pan. The animal aspect of the latter is immediately noticeable by observing the clogs, the fleece of the legs up to the goat's ears. Its ferine appearance contrasts with the beauty of the

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menade, lying under the leaves of a tree from whose leaves it has made a temporary bed; the relaxed lasciviousness with which it gently abandons itself on the trunk is perfectly highlighted in the gesture of adjusting the crown as well as in the left arm loosely resting on the leaves. The variety in surface treatment is surprising: thinly grooved in bricks and trunk, more prominent in the details of hair and hair and extraordinarily smooth along the contours of the bodies. We must also note the small details of the flowers and fruits masterfully set into the composition so as to appear part of the same fragment of alabaster. The material lends itself well to this variety and enhances the work in all its details, both through the bright, shimmering reflection like a pictorial chiaroscuro, and through the different natural shades of stone. Being in seventeenth century Sicily, probably in the area of Trapani, it is natural to think about the names of the great artists of the Sicilian baroque style developed parallel to the Roman one so that many architects, sculptors and painters of the island were trained in Rome.