Georges Croegaert (Antwerp 1848 - 1923 Paris) - ' Cardinal In His Thoughts '



9 800 EUR

Signature : Georges Croegaert, Anvers 1848 - 1923 Paris, Peintre Belgo-Français, Signature : signée en bas à droite, inscrite 'Georges Croegaert Paris'

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 35 cm

Height : 30,5 cm

Depth : 6 cm

Description

Georges CroegaertAntwerp 1848 - 1923 ParisBelgian - French Painter'Cardinal in His Thoughts'Signature: signed lower right and placed 'Georges Croegaert Paris'Medium: oil on panelDimensions: image size 19 x 24 cm, frame size 30,5 x 35 cmBiography: Georges Croegaert was born in Antwerp on October 7th in 1848. He was a belgian painter of genre scenes, elegant women, clergy portraits, still lifes, birds, and flowers.Georges Croegaert was a celebrated Belgian academic painter who spent the majority of his career in Paris, where he became renowned for his highly detailed genre scenes, depictions of glamorous women, and humorous portrayals of Catholic cardinals. His work is characterized by refined technique, vibrant color, and a narrative richness that continues to captivate collectors and

Dealer

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art enthusiasts to this day.Born in Antwerp in 1848, Croegaert studied at the prestigious Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, where he received rigorous academic training. He is also believed to have studied privately with Jan Van Beers Jr., whose influence is evident in Croegaert's meticulous style and narrative approach. In 1876, he moved to Paris, settling at 43 Rue Stephenson, where he would live and work for many years.Early in his career, Croegaert focused on still lifes, bird and flower studies, and occasional genre scenes painted en plein air. However, it was in Paris that he found his true voice as an artist. Inspired by the fashionable society and artistic trends of the Belle Époque, he began painting opulent interior scenes populated by elegant young women draped in rich fabrics, surrounded by luxurious oriental carpets, gilded screens, and exotic curios. These compositions, often tinged with subtle irony, reflected the period's fascination with Japonism and Orientalism.Croegaert became widely known for his exquisite technique and mastery of color and texture. His renderings of silk, brocade, and glass are especially admired, and his portraits of society women stand out for their elegance and meticulous detail. In the 1880s and 1890s, he also painted a number of small, intimate bust-length portraits of women, often titled generically (e.g., A Blonde Woman, Portrait of a Woman with Chestnut Hair), showing them against neutral backgrounds that heightened the realism and serenity of the subject.Perhaps most famously, Croegaert gained notoriety as a pioneer of the so-called "cardinal paintings"--humorous, finely rendered scenes featuring Roman Catholic cardinals in sumptuous surroundings, often engaged in trivial or leisurely activities such as admiring artworks, sipping fine wine, playing cards, or indulging in hobbies like philately or painting. These works, executed with remarkable precision and vivid coloration, particularly in the rendering of the cardinals' scarlet robes, offered a playful commentary on the decadence of the

ecclesiastical elite. While not overtly anticlerical, these paintings exuded a lightly mocking tone that was immensely popular with collectors, especially in England and the United States.Croegaert was not alone in this genre; other artists such as Andrea Landini, Jehan Georges Vibert, Charles Edouard Delort, and Marcel Brunery also explored similar themes. Yet Croegaert distinguished himself through the sheer refinement of his brushwork and the expressive character of his figures. His ability to depict the gleam of silver, the texture of velvet, or the glint of cut glass contributed to the charm and success of these canvases.He exhibited regularly at the Paris Salon and the Salon of French Artists from 1882 to 1914, and in 1888, his work was featured at the prestigious Vienna Salon. Critics praised his work for its finish and wit, and during his lifetime, his paintings were sought after by prominent collectors.Though Belgian by birth, Croegaert spent most of his adult life in France and is often considered part of the French School, as referenced by art historians such as Bénézit and Busse. His legacy is preserved in private collections and museums, and his works continue to be prized--particularly his exquisitely painted miniatures and iconic cardinal scenes.Georges Croegaert passed away in Paris in 1923, leaving behind a rich body of work that blends technical mastery with narrative sophistication and subtle humor.