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Frans Mortelmans (1865 - Antwerp - 1936) - ' Still Life With Porcelain Vase And Fruit '

8 500 EUR



Signature : Frans Mortelmans, 1865 - Anvers - 1936, Peintre belge, Signature : signée en bas à droite « F. Mortelmans »

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 95 cm

Height : 70 cm

Depth : 10 cm

Description

Frans Mortelmans 1865 - Antwerp - 1936 Belgian Painter 'A Still Life with Porcelain and Fruit' Signature: signed lower right 'F. Mortelmans' Medium: oil on canvas Dimensions: image size 50 x 75 cm, frame size 70 x 95 cm Biography: Frans Mortelmans was a highly accomplished Belgian painter known for his refined still lifes, evocative flower compositions, fruit studies, interiors, seascapes, beach scenes, portraits, and landscapes. A master of both oil and watercolor, he also worked in pastel, showing remarkable versatility and sensitivity across media. Born in Antwerp on 1 May 1865, Mortelmans grew up in the vibrant working-class neighborhood around Saint Paul's parish. He was the elder brother of the renowned composer and conductor Lodewijk Mortelmans (1868-1952),

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and like his sibling, Frans cultivated a deep artistic sensibility from an early age. In 1876, at just eleven years old, Mortelmans began his formal training at the Antwerp Academy of Fine Arts. His education was shaped by many of the leading artistic figures of the day, including Edward Dujardin, J.E. Van den Bussche, P. Beaufaux, E. Siberdt, J. Geefs, Albrecht De Vriendt, and especially Lucas Schaefels--one of the preeminent still-life painters of the time. He furthered his studies at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts under Juliaan De Vriendt and Frans Van Leemputten, alongside fellow students such as Charles Mertens, Henry Luyten, Piet Van Engelen, and Jozef Ratinckx. A key figure in the artistic circles of Antwerp, Mortelmans exhibited regularly throughout Belgium, particularly at the Triennial Salons of Ghent, Brussels, and his native Antwerp. He held solo exhibitions in esteemed Antwerp galleries such as Verlat, Lamorinière, and Wijnen. As a member of several cultural associations--including Arte et Labore, De Hulst, De Distel, and above all, De Scalden--he played an active role in the flourishing cultural life of his city. De Scalden, a dynamic arts society founded in 1889, fostered innovation in the decorative and fine arts and was central to Mortelmans' artistic development. In 1910, Mortelmans was appointed professor of still-life painting at the Antwerp Academy. Among his students were notable artists such as Antoon Marstboom, Franck Mortelmans, and Joris Minne. Mortelmans was widely respected as both a painter and a teacher, contributing significantly to the evolution of Flemish art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mortelmans' style evolved from a precise and formal realism to a more expressive and harmonious impressionism. His floral compositions, in particular, are celebrated for their vibrant palette and lyrical touch, achieving a subtle balance between decorative richness and natural elegance. Though rooted in tradition, his still lifes display a fresh vitality and unmistakable personal voice.

Working from his private atelier from 1892 onward, he pursued painting with devotion and consistency, always searching for refinement and beauty. He belonged to a long-standing Antwerp tradition of still-life painting, alongside artists like Willem Linnig Jr., Eugene Joors, Hendrik De Braekeleer, and Lucas Schaefels. He shared this legacy with contemporaries such as Marie-Antoinette Marcotte and Jozef Van de Roye, further enriching the genre's prominence in Flemish art. Frans Mortelmans passed away in Antwerp on 11 April 1936. Today, his work continues to be sought after by collectors around the world. His paintings are held in several major institutions, including the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp, the Museum of Flemish Cultural Life, the Ostend Mu.ZEE, the Museum of Kortrijk, the Hof van Busleyden Museum in Mechelen, and the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, USA. Literatuur:- N. Hostyn, Frans Mortelmans, in: Nationaal Biografisch Woordenboek, deel 15, Brussel, 1996.- N. Hostyn & W. Rappard, Dictionaire van Belgische en Hollandse bloemenschilders, Knokke, 1995.- G. Persoons, N. Hostyn & J. Dewilde, Frans Mortelmans (1865-1936), Antwerpen, 2002.- N. Hostyn, D. Schiltz & I. Schiltz, Frans Mortelmans 1865-1936. Virtuoso bloemenschilder, Standaard Uitgeverij, Antwerpen, 2009.