



PROANTIC

LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Byzantine Icon Of The Praying Virgin -- Tempera On Gilded Wood, 16th Century



2 200 EUR

Signature : Ecole Byzantine du 16ème siècle

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Other

Width : 13 cm

Height : 22 cm

Description

A rare icon depicting the praying Virgin ("Panagia" or "Orans"), her hands raised in the traditional gesture of prayer. Painted in tempera on a carved wooden panel in an original frame, this work illustrates the continuity of Byzantine art in 16th-century Orthodox workshops. The Virgin is depicted frontally, in bust form, wearing a purple maphorion and a bluish-green tunic, against a golden background adorned with a radiant halo. The icon is distinguished by the clarity of her face, gently rendered, framed by a light veil contrasting with the maphorion. Her direct and soothing gaze emphasizes the intercessory role of Mary, a figure of mediation and protection in the Orthodox faith.

Technique: Egg tempera on wood prepared with gesso
Gilt leaf (background and halo)
Monoxylon

Dealer

Arte Collection

Medieval and Haute-Epoque Art

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13 LES ARENES

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panel with original carved frameSize:
approximately 22 x 13 cmSome surface defects,
wear and tear, but the original background is well
preservedThe figure of the praying Virgin finds
its origins in the Roman catacombs (3rd century),
but it was in the East that it became central,
particularly in the Byzantine liturgy. Its
iconography remained unchanged for centuries:
frontality, raised hands, fixed gestures, and a
gilded background. This type of image was often
incorporated into domestic iconostases or small
rural chapels, testifying to a constant popular
piety.The icon presented here reflects this canon,
in a style typical of post-Byzantine schools: a
linear, expressive design, restrained color
scheme, and decorative gilding. It reflects the
influence of post-1453 Cretan and Macedonian
art, which spread throughout the Balkans and the
Aegean Islands.Conservation status:The work
retains its ancient patina and presents several
surface chips, particularly on the dark areas of the
garment. The gilded background has undergone
some alteration and wear, revealing the gesso in
places. The frame is original, with some losses
related to aging. No modern repainting is visible.
The panel exhibits excellent stability.The icon is
a moving testimony to Orthodox religious fervor
and the survival of classical Byzantine models in
the 16th century. It will appeal to lovers of
Eastern sacred painting, Christian symbolism, and
ancient religious objects.Very careful
shipping#ByzantineIcon #VirginIcon
#OranteVirgin #Panagia #OrthodoxArt
#SacredPainting #TemperaOnWood
#16thCenturyArt #AncientIcon
#ChristianIconography #BalkanArt
#PostByzantineIcon #Proantic