



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

André Devambez - Memento Mori Or Kick The Bucket - Still Life With Skull And Book

2 500 EUR



Signature : André DEVAMBEZ (1867-1944)

Period : 20th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Oil painting on wood

Length : 34 cm.

Height : 26 cm.

Description

Of a rather large format and an unusual subject for the artist, this vanitas seduces and surprises those familiar with André Devambez's antics. There is no teeming crowd compressed into a few square centimeters, nor any dizzying dive or extravagant angle of view. The composition here is intended to be of great classicism. We are looking head-on at a skull placed in the center of the panel, a universal symbol of death and the finiteness of our earthly lives. This skull rests on a book that represents the vanity of ephemeral knowledge. Devambez thus follows in the tradition of 17th-century Dutch masters, such as Pieter Claesz or Harmen Steenwijck, who readily combined these elements in their vanitas. However, has Devambez renounced all traces of humor in this work ? Has he retained none of that

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slight discrepancy that usually brings a smile to the viewer's face? It seems so. On the right, a traditional element of vanitas appears: the pipe, meant to evoke the transience of earthly pleasures. But here, only the bowl is visible; the instrument is broken, incomplete. We see here a discreet and mischievous evocation of the popular expression "to break one's pipe." Two readings of the same painting overlap, one traditional and severe, the other lighter. Both are commonly carried by the undeniable talent of the painter, served by the same treatment, the same warm and sober palette, and a nervous and generous brushstroke.