



PROANTIC  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

## Aristotle And Phyllis, Bartholomäus Spranger (antwerp, 1546 - Prague, 1611) Workshop



7 800 EUR

Signature : Bartholomäus Spranger (Anvers, 1546 - Prague, 1611) atelier

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : encadré 98 cm.

Height : encadré 76 cm.

### Description

Bartholomäus Spranger (Antwerp, 1546 - Prague, 1611) workshop  
Aristotle and Phyllis  
Oil on canvas  
64 x 54 cm  
In frame 79 x 72 cm  
Full details of the work ([click HERE](#))  
The curious subject of this painting, quite common between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, is inspired by the medieval legend that tells how the philosopher Aristotle, known for his wisdom, was seduced and subjugated by the young and beautiful Phyllis. Despite his professed discipline, the great scholar fell so deeply in love with the girl that he became her laughing stock, immortalised here on his knees while she rides him, thus demonstrating the power of seduction over reason. The story was interpreted as a warning about female power and the vulnerability of men, without distinction, even the wisest: it is therefore a sort of moralising

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fable intended to warn against the pleasures of the flesh. The iconography is taken from an invention by Bartholomäus Spranger (Antwerp, 1546 - Prague, 1611), a leading exponent of European Mannerism and active at the Habsburg court in Prague, in the service of Emperor Rudolf II. The original painting, which has been lost, has been handed down thanks to Sadler's engraving, which we present in the attached images. From a stylistic point of view and considering the period, we can easily consider our work as an example from his workshop or, more likely, from an artist from his close circle, and therefore date it to the early decades of the 17th century. Given Spranger's role as the emperor's trusted painter, it is thought that this amusing illustration was created for the personal pleasure of Emperor Rudolf, a great patron and art collector but also a lover of women, alluding to his weakness and thus ironically warning him. If even the learned Aristotle, whose erudition is evident from the books piled on the shelf, was powerless in the face of female cunning, anyone, including the emperor, would have been justified in giving in to the temptations of the flesh.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The work is sold complete with a pleasant antique frame and comes with a certificate of authenticity and a descriptive iconographic card. We take care of and organise the transport of the purchased works, both in Italy and abroad, through professional and insured carriers. It is also possible to view the painting in our gallery in Riva del Garda, where we would be delighted to welcome you and show you our collection of works. Please contact us, without obligation, for any further information. Follow us on:

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