



PROANTIC
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Gentleman With Sword In A Blacksmith's Forge. Italy, First Half Of The 17th Century

1 200 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 28,5cm

Height : 25cm



Description

Gentleman with sword in a blacksmith's forge.
Italy, first half of the 17th century

Oil on walnut panel

Panel size: 22 × 18.5 cm

Frame: 28.5 × 25 cm (not original)

A forge. Tools neatly arranged above the furnace: tongs, hammers, pincers. At the centre, a nude male figure bends toward the fire. The reddish glow of the heated metal lights him from below, highlighting his powerful muscles and twisted pose.

It is a blacksmith. But that alone does not explain it. The anatomy is rendered with such sculptural precision that it evokes the

Dealer

Antichità di Alina

Peintures anciennes - Art nouveau - Art déco,
micromosaïques, porcelaine

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post-Michelangelesque tradition, filtered through the late Mannerism of Vasari's legacy. This is not a simple artisan. The pose, the modelling, the concentrated gesture suggest a more elevated purpose.

Another man stands nearby. Elegantly dressed: cloak, high-crowned hat, a sword at his side. A gentleman, perhaps a patron. Or perhaps something else. His presence introduces tension. Is he commissioning a weapon, overseeing a casting, or participating in a ritual?

To the right, a woman with a child, seated in shadow. Is she the blacksmith's wife? A nurse? An allegory? The composition is built around these three focal points: labour, the armed observer, and maternity.

This is no simple genre scene. Or, at least, not merely that. The atmosphere is dark. The contrast sharp. The selective lighting isolates and sculpts the bodies. It recalls the tenebrist taste and Northern European painting of the early 17th century - Flemish or Dutch, particularly that seen in Rome.

And yet, the support - a single thin walnut panel - points to Italy. Possibly Tuscany. Still, the work could be by a Northern painter active in Italy, or by an Italian artist deeply attuned to that visual culture. The small format reinforces the idea: this is not a decorative wall piece, but a collector's object. For informed hands. For erudite eyes. Then, the subject: a forge, a man with fire, a visitor with a sword. It is hard not to think of Vulcan. Or of silent alchemy. Metal, heat, transformation. This is not merely a scene. It is an enigma.

Good condition. Panel structurally sound. Minor age-related wear. Patina consistent with the period.