



PROANTIC
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Peter Angelis, At The Market



3 900 EUR

Signature : PETER ANGELIS

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 37 cm

Height : 46 cm

Description

PETER ANGELIS AT THE MARKET
PETER ANGELIS
Dunkerque 1685 - 1734
Rennes
Oil on canvas
46 x 37 cm / 18.1 x 14.6 inches; with frame 61 x 52 cm / 24 x 20.5 inches
Look closely -- there is a cat in this painting. You may not see it at once, but it sits almost at the center of the scene. This is not a trivial detail: it signals a shift toward a new kind of narrative painting in early 18th-century France, where meaning hides in plain sight. French painting at the turn of the 18th century was undergoing a profound transformation. The weight and grandeur of the Baroque gradually gave way to a language of lightness, elegance, and suggestion -- a shift often associated with Antoine Watteau, yet extending far beyond his work alone. At the same time, the legacy of 17th-century Dutch and Flemish

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painting was being reinterpreted: its intimacy and attention to everyday life were recast within a more refined, theatrical, and subtly coded visual culture. It was within this dynamic context that the art of Peter Angelis (Pierre Angillis, 1685-1734) took shape. Born in Dunkirk, Angelis developed a remarkably international career, working across Flanders, Germany, England, Italy, and France. He was admitted as a master to the Guild of Saint Luke in Antwerp in 1715-16 and later spent many years in London, where his works enjoyed considerable success. A period in Rome further refined his artistic language, before he settled in Rennes, where demand for his paintings ultimately persuaded him to remain. This cosmopolitan trajectory is essential to understanding his style. Rather than belonging to a single school, Angelis emerges as a mediator between artistic traditions. Contemporary critics already recognized this duality: Horace Walpole described his manner as a synthesis of David Teniers and Watteau -- "with more grace than the former, more nature than the latter." His works combine the descriptive clarity and material richness of Northern painting with a lighter, more fluid, and suggestive handling characteristic of the early 18th century. *At the Market*, from our gallery, offers a particularly refined example of this synthesis. The composition unfolds as a lively genre scene structured around an abundant still life of fish and seafood, rendered with a precision that recalls Flemish precedents such as Teniers or Snyder. Yet the scene is far from purely descriptive. The figures engage in a quiet exchange, their gestures and glances introducing a subtle tension that transforms the market into something closer to a staged encounter. It is precisely here that the painting reveals its modernity. Beneath the surface of everyday life, Angelis constructs a layered narrative, where objects, expressions, and seemingly incidental details -- such as the discreetly placed cat -- contribute to an atmosphere of suggestion. The abundance of fish and shellfish, traditionally

associated with sensuality and ephemerality, reinforces this reading, introducing a barely perceptible erotic undertone. In this way, the work resonates with the emerging culture of the early 18th century, in which reality and performance become increasingly intertwined. The market is no longer merely a site of exchange, but a space of observation, play, and coded interaction -- a stage upon which meaning is never fully stated, but always implied.