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Gerrit Van Honthorst (follower Of), Shepherd's Girl With A Bird's Nest, Oil On Canvas, 86x66 Cm



4 900 EUR

Signature : Gerrit Van Honthorst (disciple de)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 66 cm.

Height : 86 cm.

Description

Gerrit Van Honthorst (follower of)(Utrecht 1590 - 1656)Shepherd's Girl with a Bird's NestOil on canvas, 86 x 66 cmWithin a beautiful carved and gilded frameThis painting, attributed to a follower of the Dutch painter Gerrit van Honthorst (1592-1656), is distinguished by the pleasing subject matter and the luminous, intimate atmosphere. The painting's protagonist is a young woman with a radiant face, slightly flushed cheeks, and a serene gaze that seems to capture the viewer's attention. Her hint of a smile gives the sitter a lively and captivating naturalness, immediately conveying a sense of joy and sweetness. She wears a large straw hat with wavy edges, lined with blue fabric, which frames her face. Her brightly colored clothing harks back to the popular tradition of the time. In her left hand,

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the figure carefully and delicately holds a nest: inside, two white doves seem ready to take flight, a symbol of purity, love, and hope. The presence of the birds and the woman's protective gesture create an idyllic and evocative scene, charged with poetry. The dark setting in the background allows the light to focus on the main subject, revealing the influence of Caravaggio's painting, characterized by strong contrasts between light and shadow (chiaroscuro). This device further highlights the young woman's beauty and the details of her hands and the fabric, as well as the naturalistic details of the nest and the two little birds.

Gerrit van Honthorst (1592-1656) was a celebrated Dutch Golden Age painter, best known for his works influenced by Caravaggio's style. Born in Utrecht, van Honthorst was one of the leading exponents of the Utrecht School, a group of Dutch artists who adopted Caravaggio's characteristic use of dramatic chiaroscuro. After completing his initial training in the Netherlands, Honthorst traveled to Italy around 1610, staying in Rome, where he came into direct contact with the works of Caravaggio and the local Caravaggesques. During this period, he developed his talent for depicting scenes illuminated by artificial light, such as candles or lanterns, a distinctive trait that earned him the nickname "Gherardo delle Notti." Upon his return to the Netherlands, van Honthorst quickly gained international fame, working for important patrons such as the English court of Charles I and the Danish court. His works ranged from religious scenes to mythological paintings, portraits, and genre scenes, always characterized by a masterful use of light and a lively tone. His influence was widespread, not only in the Netherlands but also in other European courts, where he was recognized as one of the most brilliant interpreters of Caravaggio's light and shadow.