



## Virgin In Prayer - Tempera On Wood Panel - Italian School, 16th Century



3 900 EUR

Signature : Ecole Italienne 16ème siècle

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Other

### Description

An exceptional tempera on wood panel depicting the Virgin in prayer, a work of remarkable quality, testifying to the pictorial tradition of the late Renaissance or early Baroque period. This painting, intended for private devotion, displays all the stylistic characteristics of 16th-century Italian workshops. The Virgin Mary is depicted in bust form, according to the classical iconography of the Mater Dolorosa or the Virgin of the Annunciation. Her gently lowered gaze expresses profound introspection and spiritual meditation. Her slender, delicate hands, crossed over her breast, convey an attitude of humility and divine acceptance. The figure stands out against a nuanced greenish background, typical of devotional panels of this period, while a discreet landscape sketched to the left provides spatial

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depth in keeping with Renaissance conventions. The work is distinguished by a refined and perfectly controlled color palette: The cloak, a soft blue with a delicate transparency, evokes the azurite used in Italian workshops. The dress, a warm and vibrant orange-red, is modeled with great subtlety. The light blue veil envelops the finely rendered blond hair. The complexions, rendered with great softness and ivory and pink tones, demonstrate an exceptional mastery of tempera. The tempera on panel technique, still widely used before the widespread adoption of oil painting, lends the whole a particular luminosity and remarkable precision in the details.

### Graphic Details and Artistic Qualities

Subtle modeling of the face, reminiscent of sfumato. Wavy hair rendered with light touches. Slender hands, meticulously drawn. Full and naturalistic drapery. Fine gilt ornamentation on the neckline. Period craquelure confirms the panel's age.

### Attribution and stylistic analysis

The stylistic examination places this work within the tradition of the 16th-century Italian School, with several possible comparisons: Tuscany/Umbria: softness of features, graceful modeling reminiscent of the circle of Perugino or the young Raphael. Lombardy or Veneto: affinities with the pictorial sensibility of Bernardino Luini and his followers. Late Renaissance: idealization of the face, light palette, internalized spirituality.

### Technical characteristics

Support: wooden panel, probably poplar (a common wood in Italy). Dimensions: approximately 39 x 29 cm. Original thickness and mounting. Traces of old restorations visible on the edges.

### Condition

Very good overall condition: Cracks consistent with age. Minor losses and marginal wear.

### Historical context

In the 16th and early 17th centuries, representations of the Virgin Mary experienced a significant boom, particularly after the Council of Trent (1545-1563), which encouraged the development of religious images for private devotion. These small panels, intended for oratories and bedrooms, were frequently

commissioned by bourgeois or aristocratic families from renowned workshops. The asking price is justified by:- The age and authenticity of the work (16th-17th century)- The quality of execution and the pictorial refinement- The rarity of tempera on panel from this period on the market- The significant iconographic subject

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