Geoffroy Chocarne (1797-1870) - Saint Sebastian



2 000 EUR

Signature : Geoffroy Alphonse Chocarne (1797-1870)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 22 cm (cadre 36cm)

Height : 28 cm (cadre 41cm)

Description

Geoffroy Alphonse Chocarne (1797-1842) Saint Sebastian Signed and dated lower left: G. Chocarne, 1857 Oil on panel Representative of French religious painting of the 1830s, this powerful Saint Sebastian illustrates the talent of Geoffroy Alphonse Chocarne, an artist trained in the Neoclassical tradition and sensitive to the pre-Romantic developments of his time. The martyr is depicted tied to a tree trunk, his body modeled by a soft light that reveals the precision of the drawing and the delicacy of the modeling. The dramatic atmosphere of the sky, rendered in shades of purple and violet, lends the composition an emotional tension rarely seen among academic painters of the early 19th century. The saint's face, turned towards heaven in an expression of contemplation, testifies to the spiritual aesthetic

Dealer

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characteristic of this period of transition between classical heritage and nascent Romantic sentiment. Dated 1857, this work belongs to the still limited corpus of known works by Chocarne, an artist whose career was prematurely cut short. Its meticulous execution, the quality of its lighting, and the sensitivity of its subject matter make it a remarkable example of post-Neoclassical French religious painting. Born in 1797, Geoffroy Alphonse Chocarne belonged to that generation of painters trained in the direct wake of French Neoclassicism, while gradually incorporating the more expressive and colorful sensibility that characterized the first decades of the 19th century. Trained in the Parisian academic environment, Chocarne specialized in history painting, the most valued genre at the time, and adopted its demands: rigorous drawing, idealization of the human form, and a taste for religious or heroic subjects. His work nevertheless demonstrates a growing attention to atmospheric effects and inner expression, signs of the transition toward an aesthetic with pre-Romantic overtones. He exhibited several times at the Salon, where his religious and historical compositions were noted for the finesse of their modeling and the quality of their lighting. A diligent and meticulous painter, faithful to academic conventions, he followed in the footsteps of artists who, after David and Regnault, sought to reconcile classical accuracy with a more intimate sense of drama and the sacred. A drawing teacher, he taught Berthe Morisot and her sister. Chocarne's career, still poorly documented, ended in 1870, at the age of 72. His rare body of work testifies to a solidly trained artist, representative of this transitional period when French painting was gradually shifting towards a more sensitive and poetic expression. Good overall condition, some minor wear (next to the signature and on the top edge).