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Young Saint In Prayer - Tempera On Gold Ground Panel - 15th Century Italian School



3 900 EUR

Signature : Ecole Italienne 15ème siècle - Toscane

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Other

Description

Young Saint in Prayer - Tempera on Gold Ground Panel - 15th Century Italian SchoolA rare 15th-century (Quattrocento) Italian panel, painted in egg tempera on a magnificently preserved gold ground, depicting a young saint in prayer. This work, 33.5 cm high and 18.5 cm wide, adopts a lanceolate format typical of small predella panels or private oratories. The figure, with its gentle introspection, is distinguished by a youthful face with delicate features, inspired by Florentine and Umbrian models of the mid-15th century. With his gaze lowered and his hands folded over his chest, the saint is depicted in a posture of silent meditation, imbued with a humility very characteristic of the early religious Renaissance. The best iconographic attribution, historically consistent and stylistically sound,

Dealer

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is: Saint John the Evangelist depicted as an adolescent, in prayer. (Probable iconographic attribution, common in 15th-century Tuscan panels.) Gold ground set on red gesso, decorated with a remarkable array of arches, lozenges, and floral motifs around the halo, worked in the matrix as in the tradition of Tuscan workshops. Red hair, modeled with fine brown hatching, reminiscent of the works of the late Sienese school and the post-Angelica period. Face constructed with light orange and ochre modeling, still indebted to Gothic canons but already tending towards the naturalism of the Quattrocento. Deep blue garment, the pigment probably composed of azurite, enhanced with meticulously drawn gold and red braid. Slender, elongated hands, characteristic of devotional representations of adolescent saints. This iconography of the meditative young saint appears frequently in the workshops of central Italy in the 15th century. Such a figure could have belonged to: a larger altarpiece, placed as a side panel, or to a predella, accompanying narrative scenes, or even to a panel in a private oratory, intended for personal devotion. The choice of a completely gold background, still very fashionable until the 1460s-1480s, confirms this piece's connection between medieval tradition and Renaissance sensibility. Technique: pigments and materials Egg tempera on a white ground. Punched gold background, highly decorative, with several types of hallmarks (round, star, trefoil arch). Traditional Quattrocento pigments: azurite, ochres, cinnabar/minium for the reds, and vine black. The panel shows ancient traces of wood-boring insect damage, visible on the reverse, confirming its age and authenticity. School and Possible Attribution Based on the visible stylistic characteristics: dense hallmarking, soft rendering of the face, lanceolate shape, characteristic blue-gold-red coloring, late Gothic simplification blended with early naturalism, -> the work can be aptly attributed to the 15th-century Italian School,

probably Tuscan (influences of Fra Angelico, Bicci di Lorenzo, Florentine-Dominic school), with a possible connection to certain late Sienese productions. This is a high-quality, homogeneous workshop piece, retaining all of its original hallmarks. Condition Use-induced cracks, minor wear around the edges, Gold ground well preserved, hallmarked clear, Old cracks stabilized, Reverse heavily damaged by wood-boring insects, but structurally sound. (This condition is consistent with a work over 500 years old.) Dimensions Height: 33.5 cm Width: 18.5 cm Place in Art History Small 15th-century Italian devotional panels are sought after for their fundamental role in the transition between: the medieval world (gold background, hieratic style), and the nascent Renaissance (psychology, soft modeling, introspection). Today, they constitute a stable and highly prized segment of the Old Masters market, as they represent the most intimate expression of Quattrocento spirituality. Shipping and Insurance Information: All our packages are handled by MBE (Mail Boxes Etc.) Narbonne, guaranteeing careful and perfectly secure packaging. Shipping is then handled by UPS, FedEx, or GLS, ensuring reliable and tracked delivery worldwide. For all purchases over EUR4,000, an ad valorem insurance policy is automatically taken out with Trans-Pass, providing optimal coverage for your acquisition throughout its entire transport. #Tempera #Quattrocento #ItalianArt #15thCentury #GoldGround #AncientPanel #SacredArt #YoungSaint #ItalianRenaissance #OldMasterPainting #Antiques #ArteCollection #Proantic #WesternIcon #OldMaster #PrivateDevotion #Siena #Florence