



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Joseph-marie Vien (1716-1809), Circle Of - Young Vestal Virgin Crowned With Roses



3 200 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Oil on canvas. Original relined canvas. This delicate head of a Vestal Virgin crowned with roses, attributed to the circle of Joseph-Marie Vien and probably dating from the height of his career (circa 1760-1775), is an exquisite example of the aesthetic transition in French painting. The work reflects the taste for Antiquity that characterized Vien's production, marking a clear break with the Rococo style then in vogue. Although the motif of the Roman priestess and the crown of roses evoke purity and classicism, the softness of the face and the subtle play of light retain a sensual grace that nonetheless remains true to Rococo elegance. This type of composition of idealized and virtuous heads, exploring Greek fashion, was frequent in his studio, serving as studies of form and expression,

Dealer

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and foreshadowing the formal restraint that his pupil, Jacques-Louis David, would push to its extreme. Joseph-Marie Vien was a French painter of immense historical importance, recognized as the precursor of Neoclassicism and the principal architect of the revival of interest in Antiquity. After a period of training in the studio of Charles-Joseph Natoire, Vien won the prestigious Prix de Rome in 1743, where he remained until 1750, devoting himself to history and religious painting. Upon his return to France, he made decisions that ran counter to the prevailing Rococo style, drawing his inspiration from the more classical Bolognese painting of the 17th century. This commitment to classical rigor led him to the height of his artistic powers in the 1760s. Appointed an academician in 1754, his influence was consolidated when he returned to Rome in 1775 as director of the French Academy. In this position, he profoundly influenced a new generation of artists, the most famous of whom was Jacques-Louis David. Vien's importance is enshrined by his interment in the Panthéon in Paris, an honor that underscores his fundamental role in the transformation of French art. - Image dimensions without frame: 44 x 56 cm / 56 x 68 cm with a magnificent antique wooden frame.