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Apotheosis Of Saint Louis King Of France / Circa 1860 / Oil On Canvas



650 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

19th-Century French Religious Painting -  
Apotheosis of Saint Louis 70 x 55 cm (unframed)  
83 x 68.5 cm (framed) on its original canvas.  
Important 19th-century French oil on canvas,  
circa 1860, depicting the Apotheosis of Saint  
Louis, in the academic and historicist style of the  
religious revival. King Louis IX is shown  
glorified on clouds, surrounded by angels, in a  
solemn and balanced composition, typical of  
French religious painting under the Second  
Empire, where Christian ideals, medieval  
memory, and moral exaltation are combined.  
Saint Louis is represented as a saintly king,  
wearing a red tunic symbolizing sacrifice and  
charity, and a green cloak evoking hope and  
justice. His posture is both humble and majestic:  
his gaze raised to heaven, he triumphs not

Dealer

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through force but through holiness. He holds the sword of justice, not brandished, a sign of his now spiritual authority, as well as a white banner adorned with the image of the Virgin, recalling his profound Marian devotion and his loyalty to France, placed under Mary's protection. The rich iconography explicitly refers to the history of the Crusades and the figure of the ideal Christian king as it was understood in the 19th century. On the ground, among the discarded weapons, are a helmet and an inverted Islamic crescent, unequivocal symbols of the spiritual victory of Christendom over Islam, in an interpretation inherited from the Middle Ages and fully embraced by the religious and historical imagination of the time. This victory, however, is not depicted as violent or military, but transcended and pacified by the saint's celestial apotheosis. Angels, depicted as graceful and luminous putti, accompany the scene, bearing various attributes: one presents a model of a church, recalling Saint Louis, builder and protector of the Church, notably the founder of the Sainte-Chapelle; others accompany the now-abandoned royal and military insignia. The whole unfolds against a luminous sky with shifting clouds, lending the scene a dimension that is both theological and poetic. This work is distinguished by the clarity of its composition, the legibility of its iconographic message, and the quality of its execution, characteristics of 19th-century French academic religious painting. It constitutes a significant testimony to the Catholic revival and the exaltation of Saint Louis as the model of the Christian king, just and pious, both national sovereign and universal saint.