Riverscape With A Small Market. Attributed To Théobald Michau (tournai, 1676 - Antwerp, 1765)



7 700 EUR

Signature : Théobald Michau (Tournai, 1676 - Anvers, 1765)

Period : 17th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 72

Height : 57

Description

River Landscape with a Small Market near the Village. Period: late 17th - early 18th century. Oil on oak panel. Presented in a beautiful frame of light tortoiseshell interspersed with black guilloché moldings. Dimensions with frame: 57 x 72 cm. Panel alone: 40 x 55 cm. This painting offers a lively scene of Flemish rural life, typical of the work of Théobald Michau, a painter active between the late 17th and mid-18th centuries. The landscape is organized around a village bordered by a stream, where a small market is taking place. The artist unfolds a rich composition, populated with figures, animals, and architectural elements, in an atmosphere that is both picturesque and harmonious. Foreground: Villagers go about their daily activities--conversations, transporting goods, tending animals. A white horse harnessed

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to a cart, chickens, and dogs enliven the scene. To the right: Thatched-roof houses host commercial and social exchanges, suggesting a vibrant local economy. To the left: The river is dotted with boats and ducks, with riverside buildings connecting the village to wider river activity. Background: A path leads to a windmill perched on a hill, a symbol of agriculture and technical ingenuity. A church with a slender steeple stands out on the horizon, anchoring the scene in a Christian community. Théobald Michau belongs to the tradition of Flemish landscape painters, heirs to Jan Brueghel the Elder and David Teniers the Younger. His work is distinguished by: meticulous narrative detail, where each character contributes to a vibrant genre scene; a luminous palette that accentuates the clarity of the air and the mildness of the climate, as well as more pastel tones than his predecessors; and a mastery of atmospheric perspective that guides the viewer's gaze from the foreground to the horizon. This type of painting, prized by the urban bourgeoisie, served to celebrate an idealized vision of the countryside, while also promoting the virtues of work, community, and faith. His work is represented in the museums of Antwerp, Tournai, Vienna (KM), Rennes, and Rotterdam (BVB). In good condition. Sold with a certificate.