



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Putti Playing With Mars' Weapons



11 000 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Restauré

Material : Oil painting

Width : 75

Height : 85

Description

Putti Playing with Mars' Weapons, Workshop of Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665). This work belongs to the production of Nicolas Poussin's workshop in Rome during the first half of the 17th century, a period corresponding to the creation of his major mythological compositions. The composition is a partial and independent reworking of the Mars and Venus painted by Nicolas Poussin around 1625 (Paris, Louvre Museum), a mythological episode recounting the adulterous love of Venus, goddess of Love, and Mars, god of War, a union through which martial violence is symbolically subjugated to desire. In this narrative, Mars's abandonment of weapons marks the triumph of Love over War. Here, the figures of Mars and Venus have deliberately disappeared in favor of a simplified allegorical

Dealer

Le Printemps des Siècles

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interpretation. The putti, arranged in a frieze in the foreground, become the sole protagonists of the scene. By playing with the helmet, shield, chariot, and abandoned weapons, they transform the attributes of war into mere toys, embodying the symbolic humiliation of the god of war. The presence of the swan, a traditional attribute of Venus, suffices to signify the goddess in her absence and to maintain the mythological reference. This canvas, contemporary with the work of Mars and Venus in the Louvre Museum, demonstrates a comparable finesse of execution and pictorial culture. It is attributed to the workshop or immediate circle of Nicolas Poussin and illustrates the practice, attested as early as the 1620s, of isolating certain secondary motifs within large mythological compositions in order to preserve their full moral and intellectual weight.