



Italian Or Flemish School, 17th Century - Judgment Of Solomon - Oil On Panel

3 400 EUR



Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Description

Oil on wooden panel
17th century, circa 1630-1670
Panel dimensions: 39.5 x 30.4 cm
Framed dimensions: 52 x 44 cm

Detailed Description

This fine 17th-century painting depicts a biblical judgment scene, most likely inspired by the episode of The Judgment of Solomon (First Book of Kings, 3:16-28). The composition centers on a sovereign figure seated on a monumental throne, surrounded by advisers, facing a group of pleading women caught in a moment of intense moral and emotional tension.

The artist deliberately chooses a psychological and narrative interpretation of the subject, focusing on the moment of discernment rather

Dealer

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than on explicit violence. This refined approach was particularly appreciated in Baroque painting, allowing for a sophisticated exploration of justice, wisdom, and human emotion.

Iconographic Analysis - Probable Identification

Several elements support the identification as The Judgment of Solomon:

Authoritative gesture of the central figure, identifiable as King Solomon

Expressive and contrasting attitudes of the female figures

Judicial setting emphasized by monumental classical architecture

Strong dramatic tension conveying wisdom and moral judgment rather than action

Composition and Scenography

Carefully structured composition with successive planes

Classical architectural backdrop with arcades opening onto a luminous sky

Visual dialogue between the stillness of authority and the emotional movement of the supplicants

Balanced interplay between monumentality and expressiveness

Palette and Pictorial Treatment

Dominant tones of deep blues, carmine reds, warm ochres, and golden browns

Controlled use of chiaroscuro to enhance faces and gestures

Soft, fluid treatment of draperies

Harmonious and sophisticated chromatic balance characteristic of Baroque painting

Technique and Support

Oil on wooden panel, a support still widely used in the 17th century for cabinet paintings

Fine ground and well-preserved paint layer

Natural craquelure and aged patina consistent with the period

Mounted in a carved and gilded wooden frame, probably 18th century

School and Possible Attribution

On stylistic grounds, this painting may be attributed to:

a Northern Italian School (Venetian or Emilian influence), or

a Flemish Italianate School, active in the mid-17th century

The narrative clarity, classical architecture, and rich palette suggest the work of a painter trained in the Baroque tradition, producing refined cabinet paintings for a cultivated clientele.

Possible attribution: circle of a Baroque Italian or Flemish master, circa 1630-1670.

Place in Art History

The Judgment of Solomon was one of the great moral themes of European Baroque painting, offering artists the opportunity to explore divine wisdom, righteous authority, and the expression of human passions. This work fully belongs to that tradition, at the crossroads of Italian and Flemish artistic exchanges.

Condition

Good overall condition for a 17th-century painting.

Original craquelure and age-related wear visible, without compromising readability.

The frame shows losses and restorations consistent with its age.

#judgmentofsolomon
#oldmasters #oilonpanel #17thcentury
#italianschool #flemishschool #baroquepainting
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