



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Oil On Panel: "the Harp Lesson" - Luigi Loir (1845-1916)



1 400 EUR

Signature : Luigi Loir (1845-1916)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 37,5 cm

Height : 46 cm

Description

The Harp Lesson, circa 1875. Signed lower right. Titled by the artist on the reverse. This work is part of a series of eight decorative panels painted by Luigi Loir to adorn the wood paneling of the private drawing room of Aristide Boucicaut, founder of the Parisian department store Au Bon Marché. Although created around 1875, the scene is clearly inspired by the aesthetics and customs of the court during the reign of Louis XV. The figures, richly dressed in delicately tinted silks, embroidery, and powdered wigs, embody the refined elegance of the 18th-century high aristocracy. The composition depicts a special moment of musical sociability: in the center, a young harpist teaches a child to play the instrument, while an attentive and benevolent gentleman accompanies the lesson. On the left, a

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seated lady observes the scene with restraint, emphasizing the intimate yet sophisticated nature of the moment. The ornamental garden setting, enlivened by flowering vegetation and structured by the presence of a monumental sculpture and classical architecture in the background, reinforces the overall gallant and decorative atmosphere. Through the refinement of the poses, the grace of the gestures, and the softness of the palette, Luigi Loir charmingly evokes the aristocratic lifestyle of the Ancien Régime, in a resolutely Rococo style, perfectly suited to the ornamental function of these panels intended for a highly refined interior. This work also served as a model for chromolithographic advertising cards distributed by Le Bon Marché to its clientele, illustrating the early dialogue between art and commercial communication. This work is listed in the artist's archives by Mr. Noé Willer, confirming its authenticity and prestigious provenance.