



PROANTIC
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Pair Of "cornici" Architectural Landscapes, Circle Of Francesco Guardi, Venice, 18th Century

4 500 EUR



Signature : d'apres Francesco Guardi (1712-1793)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 41 cm

Height : 53 cm

Description

Artistic Context and Typology

This pair of paintings belongs to the Italian decorative category known as cornici. Developed primarily in Venice during the eighteenth century, these works combined architectural landscapes or imaginary ruins with richly carved and gilded frames, forming decorative ensembles designed for aristocratic interiors and palatial settings.

The compositions belong to the tradition of capricci architettonici, imaginary architectural scenes inspired by the remains of classical antiquity. Such paintings were highly appreciated in Venetian decorative schemes of the eighteenth century and were strongly influenced by the artistic circle of Francesco Guardi (1712-1793), whose poetic visions of ruins and atmospheric landscapes played a central role in the evolution

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of Venetian landscape painting.

Iconography and Composition

The two paintings depict animated architectural landscapes populated with small staffage figures moving among monumental ruins.

The first composition presents a group of ancient architectural remains dominated by a monumental colonnade and a partially ruined triumphal arch.

Small figures dressed in eighteenth-century attire animate the foreground and introduce a narrative dimension to the scene.

The second painting depicts the remains of a grand architectural structure located along a coastal landscape. The ruins open toward a maritime horizon and distant mountains, while small figures engaged in daily activities add scale and vitality to the composition.

In both works, architecture forms the structural core of the composition, while the figures enhance the romantic and contemplative atmosphere associated with classical ruins.

Palette and Painterly Treatment

A particularly appealing aspect of this pair lies in the luminosity of the palette. The skies unfold in delicate shades of soft blue, animated by light clouds typical of eighteenth-century Venetian painting.

The architectural ruins are rendered in warm tones--ochres, earth pigments and browns--which create a harmonious contrast with the cool blues of the sky and the subtle greens of the landscape.

The brushwork is lively and fluid, characteristic of the Guardi circle, with freely painted figures and lightly suggested architectural forms that create a vibrant atmospheric effect.

Technique and Materials

Both paintings are executed in oil on canvas and have been relined. The pictorial surface displays a network of age-appropriate craquelure.

The works are presented in carved and gilded wooden frames, likely dating from the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, decorated with foliage and rocaille motifs in keeping with the Italian decorative tradition.

Decorative Presence

As a pair, the paintings create a particularly harmonious visual ensemble. One composition focuses on monumental architectural ruins on land, while the other opens toward a coastal landscape, establishing a balanced decorative dialogue.

The contrast between the ruined architecture, expansive skies and luminous color palette enhances the decorative impact of the pair, reflecting the refined taste of eighteenth-century Italian interiors.

Dimensions:

canvas - 53 × 41 cm

frame - 60 × 47 cm