



Saint Bernard Of Clairvaux In Meditation



950 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Oil painting

Width : 44

Height : 58

Description

This painting depicts Bernard of Clairvaux in the intimacy of his monastic cell. Seated at his writing desk, the saint interrupts his work and raises his eyes to a divine apparition. The scene evokes one of the most famous mystical episodes of his life: a vision of Christ on the cross appearing to the saint during his meditation. The composition is directly inspired by the famous 17th-century painting by Philippe de Champaigne, a work that achieved widespread popularity thanks to the engraving by Robert Nanteuil. This engraving contributed to popularizing the image of the saint meditating in his cell, surrounded by the symbols of monastic contemplation. Saint Bernard is depicted wearing the white habit of the Cistercians. His expressive posture, the gesture of his hand pointing to his

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chest, and his gaze turned towards the celestial light convey the intensity of his mystical experience. The painter sensitively captures the silent atmosphere of the cell. Several symbolic elements enrich the scene: on a shelf appear an hourglass and a skull, traditional evocations of meditation on the fleeting nature of time and the vanity of earthly things. On the table rest books and loose sheets, recalling the importance of the theological work of Saint Bernard, one of the greatest doctors of the medieval Church. The light entering through the opening illuminates the figure of the saint and reinforces the spiritual character of the composition, in a staging inherited from the sober and meditative naturalism of Philippe de Champaigne. This late 18th-century painting testifies to the enduring popularity of this iconography in European religious art. It constitutes a beautiful pictorial interpretation of a model that became classic thanks to the dissemination of Robert Nanteuil's engravings. Painting dimensions: 46 cm x 32 cm. Dimensions with frame (contemporary): 58 cm x 44 cm.