



**PROANTIC**  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

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## Fernando Calderón López De Arroyabe (1928-2003) - Ensemble De Forces

3 600 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

### Description

Oil on canvas. Original canvas. Signed. Inscribed on the back with the title in Spanish ("Conjunto de Fuerzas") and the name of the previous owner, the artist's son. A monumental demonstration of virile power, articulated by the superimposition of magnificent anatomies which, through an aesthetic reminiscent of the heroic realism of the 1950s, transforms tug-of-war into a choreography of opposing forces. Under a gaze that borders on homoerotic sensuality through the proximity and tension of the bodies, the work becomes a treatise on applied physics, where the mechanical tension of the rope serves as an axis to exalt the rugged nobility of the Basque sport. The muscles, rendered with a plasticity that is both stony and monumental, do not merely pull on a rope, but also embody the tradition of a people, elevating

### Dealer

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athletic discipline to the status of an artistic icon where masculine vigor and physical endurance merge in an embrace of effort and plastic harmony. Fernando Calderón López de Arroyabe belonged to a lineage of artists for whom art and music punctuated daily life. From his childhood, he cultivated a serene monumentality that captivated geniuses such as Picasso, Zuloaga, and Solana. Trained at the San Fernando Academy and perfecting his technique on the European stage, his painting sought not only faithful representation, but also a timeless solemnity that reached its zenith in the Pantheon of the Dukes of Alba in León. There, his brush, inspired by the muralists, unfurled an apotheosis of figures seemingly inhabiting a sacred silence, where the robustness of the forms--praised by Solana himself, who compared it to Goya's mastery--coexists with profound introspection. This ability to capture grandeur without exaggeration earned him the Velázquez Chair at the Brazilian Academy of Fine Arts, an honor shared with figures of the stature of Henry Moore. His career, which led him from costumes for the Ballets Russes to portraits of popes and monarchs, was marked by an epic perception of the everyday and of heroism. In his illustrations of Cantabrian myths and his notes on the epic of Corocotta, Calderón imbued regional roots with a universal dimension, imbued with mystery and reflection, which he also infused into his writing. Capable of portraying the international aristocracy with the same dignity as humble "fools" or "fishermen," his work remains a benchmark of 20th-century Spanish art for its ability to synthesize classical tradition with a modern and metaphysical vitality. At his death in his native Santander, he left a legacy where the power of his line and the depth of his spirit merge into a monumental serenity, characteristic of true masters. - Image dimensions without frame: 130 x 80 cm / 145 x 95.5 cm with exclusive custom-made black frame.