



19th-century Flemish Master, Friar In Meditation. Oil On Panel



590 EUR

Signature : Maître flamand du XIXe siècle

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 9,5 cm.

Height : 13 cm.

Description

19th-century Flemish master
Friar in Meditation
Oil on panel, 13 x 9.5 cm
A small panel of remarkable execution, depicting an elderly friar meditating in a convent cell or study. The figure, seated on a chair, is captured in a moment of spiritual recollection: his clasped hands rest on an open book--presumably the Bible or a breviary--while his eyes are lowered in silent prayer. The brown habit and long white chin precisely define the figure within the context of Franciscan monastic iconography. In the background, carefully arranged, three elements of great symbolic significance emerge: a wooden crucifix, alluding to the centrality of faith; a globe on a stand, referencing the encyclopedic culture and tradition of learned friars--cosmographers, missionaries, scientists--so prevalent in

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Counter-Reformation Europe; Finally, a leaded window with rhomboidal glass lets in a cold, diffuse light, a typical device of Nordic painting to evoke the intimate atmosphere of interiors. The table covered with a green cloth completes the setting. The pictorial execution reveals an expert hand, capable of conveying with great economy of means--on a support measuring just 12 x 8 cm--the spatial depth of the setting, the softness of the clothing, and the luminous rendering of the face. The austere brown palette, enlivened by the green and pink tones of the background, harks back directly to the great tradition of 17th-century Flemish and Dutch genre painters (Rembrandt, Gerrit Dou, David Teniers), of which the 19th-century master is a conscious and refined continuation. The painting is in good condition, with some small abrasions that do not detract from its quality. At the top center are two small holes previously used to hang the work on the wall.