



Karel Breydel, Known As The Knight Of Antwerp (antwerp, 1678 - 1733), Battle Scene With Knights

2 800 EUR



Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 50

Height : 40

Description

Karel Breydel, known as the Knight of Antwerp (Antwerp, 1678 - 1733) Battle scene with knights Oil on panel, cm 29.5 x 37 With frame, 40 x 50 cm The painting in question, a refined small-format oil on panel, depicts a scene of a clash between knights which, in style, technique and compositional dynamism, can be traced back to the hand of Karel Breydel, a famous Flemish master known as the "Knight of Antwerp". The work fits perfectly into the vein of battle painting, a genre in which Breydel excelled, demonstrating a rare ability to combine the excitement of combat with the breadth and serenity of the Nordic landscape. The composition is divided into a close-up dominated by violent hand-to-hand combat: the rendering of the horses, captured in plastic poses and friezes, and the

Dealer

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detail of the knights' uniforms highlight an executive expertise that finds specific confirmation in the master's works preserved at the National Museum in Copenhagen. In particular, the physiognomy of the figures and the musculature of the animals reveal that stylistic signature that made Breydel one of the most sought-after interpreters of his time. Karel Breydel initially trained under Pieter Ykens and later Pieter Rysbrack, but his stylistic signature was profoundly influenced by his numerous travels in his youth. After staying in Italy and Germany, where he worked closely with his brother Frans at the court of Hasse-Kassel, Breydel settled in Amsterdam in 1703. Here he entered the City Guild and began to define his specialization as a battle painter. Although he began as a landscape painter, also influenced by his closeness to the Brueghel tradition, it was precisely the representation of cavalry attacks that decreed his international success. His works are often compared in spirit and compositional ingenuity to those of Adam Frans van der Meulen, the leading exponent of the genre in Antwerp in the 17th century, while maintaining a freshness of execution and luminosity that recall Jan Griffier's views of the Rhine. In this panel, the artist demonstrates his ability to manage small spaces while infusing them with a monumental breath. The landscape, which slopes gently towards the horizon under a sky furrowed by vaporous clouds, serves as a stage for a masterful war choreography. Breydel's ability to combine the tension of the melee with the vastness of his surroundings is the hallmark of his pictorial maturity. This type of painting, highly appreciated by 18th-century collectors, is now the pride of prestigious museum institutions: in addition to the aforementioned Danish museum, similar works are exhibited at the Krannert Museum in Illinois and the Royal Museums of Fine Arts in Brussels. Ultimately, this Battle Scene with Knights represents a significant example of Karel Breydel's production,

confirming his prominent position in the panorama of Flemish painting between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, capable of transforming a small wooden support into a window open to the vibrant and dramatic history of his time.