Spain, 16th Century, Carved Relief With Saint Rocco



2 600 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

Width : 25

Height : 53

Description

Spain, 16th centuryCarved relief with Saint RoccoPolychrome and golden walnut wood, 53 x 25 cm This sculpture fits fully into the rich Spanish tradition of imaginería, or polychrome and gilded religious sculpture. In the 16th century, this tradition consolidated itself as the main language of the Iberian faith, merging the late Gothic legacy with the new demands of the Renaissance. The aesthetics of this period is manifested in a search for formal balance and solemnity, while maintaining that particular attention to devotional expression and the power of volumes that characterizes Castilian and Andalusian art of the sixteenth century. Made of walnut wood, a noble material highly appreciated for its compactness and grain particularly suited to detailed carving, the panel depicts Saint Roch,

Dealer

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one of the most popular and venerated saints, especially in Spain, invoked as a protector against the plague. He is portrayed with his classic pilgrim attributes (the drone and the short cloak), captured in the iconic gesture of showing the sore on his thigh. Assisted by a cherub on the left, he presents the faithful dog at his feet, a reminder of the miraculous sustenance he received during his isolation. The 16th-century Spanish school transforms these symbols into a plastic tale of sober monumentality, where the realism of the wound marries the sacredness of the golden robes, conveying a sense of dignity and devotion. Every detail --from the composure of the folds of the robes to the solidity of the protagonists' bodies-- reflects a profound spiritual sensitivity and extraordinary technical mastery. The tradition of these wooden panels derived from the evolution of the retable, the large monumental altarpiece that in Spain, unlike the painting prevalent in Italy, became a complex architectural structure entirely sculpted and gilded. In an era marked by the need to educate the faithful, the Spanish Church invested heavily in wooden sculpture: the relief offered a three-dimensionality that made the sacred almost tangible, facilitating the understanding of dogma through the visual force of carved wood.