



Holy Family. Battista Naldini (1537-1591) And Workshop



32 000 EUR

Signature : Battista Naldini (1537-1591)

Period : 16th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 78

Height : 92

Description

Florentine Renaissance, circa 1560 Oil/tempera on poplar panel Presented in a rare and superb period carved and gilded wooden frame, of the "Cassetta" type Overall dimensions: 92 × 78 cm. Panel alone: 52 × 65 cm This Virgin and Child, accompanied by Joseph and the young Saint John the Baptist, belongs fully to the Florentine tradition of the sixteenth century. The scene focuses on the tenderness of the exchanges: the Child turns toward John, the Virgin envelops them with a serene gaze, while Joseph, slightly set back, watches over them in a softer light. The whole composition exudes a familiar, almost domestic intimacy, characteristic of Florentine Mannerist sensibility. Color plays an essential role. The acidulated pinks, pale reds, luminous greens, and milky, translucent flesh tones

Dealer

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immediately recall the legacy of Pontormo, whose singular palette deeply influenced several generations of painters. One finds here that slightly unreal atmosphere, composed of vibrant hues and delicately modelled faces, where spirituality is conveyed through softness and light. The subtly elongated figures, the refinement of the features, the grace of the gestures, and the almost enamel-like clarity of the flesh tones evoke an artist trained directly within Pontormo's circle. It is precisely within this stylistic climate that Battista Naldini, one of his most sensitive pupils, emerges. Active from the mid-century onward, Naldini developed a visual language that extends his master's while softening it: calmer compositions, more serene expressions, colors still vivid yet more harmoniously balanced. Although an initial dating around 1540 might have seemed plausible, stylistic observation suggests a slightly later period, between 1555 and 1570, when Naldini's personal style is fully established. The poplar panel, still common in Florence at that time, is consistent with this attribution. Thus, through its luminous palette inherited from Pontormo, the Mannerist softness of the faces, and the tranquil construction of the scene, this painting finds a natural place within the oeuvre of Battista Naldini, one of the most refined continuators of Florentine Mannerism.

Battista Naldini (1537-1591) One of the most refined figures of late Florentine Mannerism. Born in Florence in 1537, he trained at a very young age in Pontormo's workshop, assimilating his acidulated palette, milky flesh tones, and the gentle, melancholic expressiveness of his figures. After Pontormo's death in 1557, Naldini continued his career in collaboration with the leading artists of his time, notably Giorgio Vasari, who employed him in several prestigious projects, including the decoration of the Palazzo Vecchio. His style evolved toward a calmer elegance than that of Pontormo: harmonious compositions, slender silhouettes, serene expressions, vivid yet more balanced colors. He

excelled in religious subjects, particularly Virgins and Child and intimate devotional scenes in which a gentle, luminous spirituality emerges. Active until the end of the century, Naldini left a substantial body of work, present in numerous Florentine churches and museums around the world. He died in Florence in 1591, recognized as one of the most sensitive and poetic heirs to Pontormo's legacy. Very good condition. Sold with a certificate of authenticity.