



Scène Galante, Dutch School, 17th C., Willem Van Mieris (162-1747) Workshop



3 200 EUR

Signature : Willem van Mieris (1662-1747), atelier

Period : 17th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Painted wood

Width : 26 cm (avec cadre : 41,8 cm)

Height : 29,8 cm (avec cadre : 45,3 cm)

Description

In a loosely defined architectural setting, somewhere between the terrace of a dwelling and the interior of a cabaret, a couple is shown in the foreground. The man wears a rather elegant outfit consisting of a green embroidered pourpoint, a velvet gown that falls from his shoulders, and an empanelled hat which he has placed beside him on a barrel. However, his lace-collared shirt collar is wide open, more reclining than sitting on his seat, his gaze vague, he seems to be taken with drink, in a somewhat careless pose. The man holds his half-full wine glass in front of him with his left hand, while his right hand, concealed from the viewer, seems to have joined the right hand which is also hidden from us. The woman, standing

Dealer

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behind him, smiles knowingly as she looks at him and her left hand ostentatiously displays a notched plaice in his left hand. This fish, carrying erotic connotations, is associated with the female sex and appears in several paintings by Willem van Mieris (Trumpeter in front of an inn, Lakenhal Museum, Leiden ; Fishmonger and young woman, Antwerp Museum of Fine Arts ; Man drinking indoors and couple kissing, Apsley House, London)The notched plaice held by the courtesan, an allusion to her sex, echoes the man's glass of wine, wine always being associated with amorous pleasures. The two objects face each other on the same diagonal, echoing each other in their sexual allusion. We are the spectators of a brothel scene, such as is so frequently found in Dutch painting of the 17th century and especially in the work of van Mieris (Tea, Louvre Museum, for instance). These popular scenes always carry a moral warning - without condemning them - regarding excesses of drinking, tobacco and dealing with prostitutes. Sometimes, the meaning of certain motifs is revealed by popular adages found in engravings of the period, such as those in the book of emblems by moralist Jacobs Cats (1636-1651) in 17th century Dutch culture. This painting, a work from the workshop of Willem van Mieris, represents an important testimony of an original by the painter dated 1668, which is not located and of which other versions are known much weaker than the present painting, sometimes reframed in a niche (New York sale, January 30, 2013) which testify to the popularity of the representation also known through engraving. Modern framing.