PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

The Flight Into Egypt, Italian School, Circa 1660



4 900 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 84.5

Width : 58

Description

The Flight into Egypt, Italian School, circa 1660Oil on canvasH. 87 cm × W. 58 cmOld restorationsPresented in a giltwood frame : 103 x 76 cmIn this refined interpretation of the Flight into Egypt, the Holy Family is accompanied by an angel holding a hoopoe (Upupa epops)--a rare and highly symbolic detail. A migratory bird native to the Mediterranean basin, the hoopoe evokes both exile and wisdom, while also suggesting continuity between the Old and New Testaments. A legendary companion of King Solomon, it here underscores the royal nature of the Christ child, recognized by the Magi as the "King of the Jews." Notably, the same bird was later declared the national symbol of Israel in 2008.The rich palette, dominated by the three primary colors, highlights the central

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Tel : 0143063630

1 Avenue Paul Deroulede

Paris 75015

figures--particularly the deep blue of the Virgin's mantle, a sacred hue derived from lapis lazuli and traditionally used since the 12th century to signify holiness.