



## Spanish School (c. 1560) - Saint Peter The Martyr



4 500 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

### Description

Oil on canvas. This magnificent Castilian altarpiece, most probably commissioned by Dominican inquisitors, represents a striking synthesis of two artistic worlds in Charles V's Spain. The figure of Saint Peter of Verona, fighter of heretics and first martyr of the Order of Preachers, becomes the perfect embodiment of the Church's authority. The influence of late Flemish Gothic, perceptible in the meticulous realism of the details of his Dominican habit and in the austere piety of a resigned face, is here supplanted by the impact of 16th-century models. The composition alludes directly to his martyrdom in 1252, when he was ambushed by Cathars on the road from Como to Milan. According to hagiography, after receiving a machete blow to the head (an attribute that

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generally adorns his iconography), the saint used his own blood to write the Creed on the ground before dying. In this painting, the martyr is endowed with a monumentality characteristic of the Mannerist schools, springing from a sculptural vigor that transcends traditional Gothic serenity. This transformation of form, in which the eloquence of the Middle Ages blends with the grandeur of the Renaissance, perfectly illustrates how 16th-century Spain drew on Italian aesthetics to give shape to the unshakeable faith of its holy inquisitors.- Image size unframed: 61 x 88.5 cm / 80 x 100.5 cm with exclusive custom-made frame.