



Gallant Fishing Scene By The Water, Aubusson Tapestry, Mid-18th Century



4 500 EUR

Signature : Aubusson

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 260

Width : 250

Description

Eighteenth-century wool and silk tapestry depicting a fishing scene in a riverside landscape, framed by a rich trompe-l'oeil architecture of fluted columns adorned with mascarons and flowery garlands held in place by putti. The composition is in keeping with the decorative taste of pastorales and scènes galantes typical of 18th-century France, where idealized nature becomes the stage for a refined, peaceful, sentimental life, free from the constraints and vicissitudes of life. In the foreground, several characters are busy with a fishing scene: on the left, a man in a boat maneuvers close to the shore while a young fisherman pulls in a net; on the right, a man holding a long cane converses with a seated woman, in an attitude of gallant conversation. The whole is more reminiscent of

Dealer

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an aristocratic pleasure scene than a real fishing job, in the spirit of tapestry cartoons from Beauvais or Aubusson. The architectural border is particularly refined: columns with capitals adorned with sculpted faces frame the scene, while putti and garlands of flowers tied with ribbons enliven the upper part. These decorative elements are reminiscent of the rocaille and neoclassical ornamental vocabulary of the mid-18th century. It should be emphasized that the light part of the sky does not correspond to a fading or fading of the wool, but rather to the original chromatic intention depicting the soft light of an early-morning sky. This luminous shade, deliberately treated in pale, pearly tones, is moreover found identically on the reverse of the tapestry, confirming that it is not a question of wear due to light but rather an aesthetic choice by the weaver to suggest the atmosphere of dawn on the shore. This tapestry retains all the subtlety of its polychromy and testifies to the decorative skills of 18th-century French workshops, where the art of landscape, floral ornament and galant *mise-en-scène* come together in a particularly harmonious composition. The tapestry is in good condition, the colors intact and particularly delicate. There are a few small openings. Hanging rings have been sewn in.