



Lionello Balestrieri (1872.-1958), Attributed To - Beethoven: An Der Ferne Geliebte

2 500 EUR



Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Oil on canvas. Original lined canvas. In the half-light of a Viennese salon still imbued with the rancid perfume of frivolities and spilled champagne, Beethoven, seated at the piano, seems to be bowing before a ruined altar. Deaf to the courtly laughter that fades in the corridors, the maestro inhabits a marble silence, where the last hope of tangible love has withered like a petal under the frost. It is in this desolation, in the heart of his absolute solitude, that his fingers begin to weave the notes of "An die ferne Geliebte", not as a song, but as a bridge of sound launched towards the unattainable. As the music emerges from the abyss, a woman with ethereal features stands motionless on the windowsill, her silhouette standing out against the summer moon that spreads silvery reflections over the Danube. She

Dealer

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is the embodiment of all absences, a silent presence that seems to absorb the air, charged with genius and torment. Beethoven doesn't see her, but he feels her in the vibration of the ground, in the porosity of the night; he writes for her, for his distant beloved, while the river flows below like time escaping. In this piece, abandoned to the shadows of a fallen aristocracy, melody becomes the only sacred link, a lyrical sigh that crosses physical distance to die, with heartbreaking sweetness, on the threshold of a heart that can henceforth be possessed only by memory and art.

-Lionello Balestrieri (1872-1958) was an Italian painter whose life embodies the transition from sentimental naturalism to the avant-garde movements of the twentieth century. Initially trained at the academies of Naples and Florence, his destiny was sealed by his move to Paris in the 1890s, where he immersed himself in the bohemian life of Montmartre and struck up a deep friendship with composer Giuseppe Vannicola. This symbiosis of image and sound earned him international renown at the 1900 Universal Exhibition, where his famous painting, *Beethoven*, became an icon of fin-de-siècle melancholy. After a spell as director of the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, where he strove to revitalize local artistic expressions, his work evolved into a mature, impressionistic, post-Macchiaiolo style, consecrating his status as a master of atmosphere and cartographer of the human soul in the face of beauty.

Lionello Balestrieri's Beethovenian fantasies materialize as a visual translation of 19th-century melancholy, where music ceases to be a mere acoustic phenomenon to become a dense, palpable atmosphere. In his celebrated *Beethoven* work, which won an award at the 1900 Paris World's Fair, Balestrieri does not seek to paint a heroic portrait of the genius, but rather to capture the emotional resonance of his work within the bohemian spirit: a group of figures absorbed in the gloom of a studio, given over to the power of a sonata that seems to dictate the geometry of

desolation. His brushstrokes capture that romantic pathos where the violin, like a stylus, pierces the silence, transforming the space into a scene of collective introspection; this is a painting that cannot be seen, but can be heard, capturing that mystical moment when Beethoven's harmony suspends time and plunges the viewer into a dream of shadows, where music is the only light capable of inhabiting the artist's solitude.- Image size unframed: 102 x 70 cm / 120 x 88 cm with exclusive custom-made frame.