



Roman School, First Half Of The XVIIIe Century. Half-figure Flute Player



10 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 74

Height : 92

Description

Eighteenth century Oil on canvas Overall dimensions with frame: 92 × 74 cm This painting depicts a young flute player captured in a moment of vivid concentration, his gaze turned toward the viewer as if inviting us to share the music he is about to perform. Dressed in a fanciful costume adorned with feathers and richly coloured fabrics, the figure belongs to the theatrical and popular world that inspired much of Roman and Neapolitan painting in the 18th century. A soft, lateral light envelops the face and hands in a warm modelling, while the neutral background enhances the musician's immediate presence. The theme of music held a central place in Italian painting of the period. In both Rome and Naples, artists produced numerous depictions of singers, flute players, guitarists, and small street virtuosos.

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These figures embodied spontaneity, sensual delight, and a simple, expressive humanity that greatly appealed to collectors of the time. The flute player, in particular, became an emblematic motif: a symbol of harmony, charm, and liveliness, allowing the painter to combine portraiture, genre scene, and theatrical atmosphere. Certain stylistic elements -- the gentle chiaroscuro, the warmth of the palette, and the attention to popular expressions -- recall the manner of Antonio Amorosi, active in Rome at the turn of the century and known for his half-length figures of musicians and young people. While a formal attribution cannot be asserted, the work may be associated with this Roman current which, from Mancini to Amorosi, elevated musical genre painting to a refined art. It also resonates with the Neapolitan tradition, where artists such as Bonito or Traversi developed a similar taste for lively and intimate portraits. The overall impression suggests a date around 1720-1750, a period during which this type of composition enjoyed great success among Italian collectors. Through its immediate charm and the quality of its execution, the painting fully reflects the sensitive and warm spirit characteristic of Roman and Neapolitan art of the 18th century. The work is presented in a beautiful original walnut frame, whose wide and elegantly carved moulding enhances the portrait. The finely chiselled floral repareure decoration runs along the edges, revealing craftsmanship typical of 18th-century Italian framing, also found in the South-East of France. The original gilding, lightly patinated with age, retains all its brilliance. Excellent condition. Sold with a certificate of authenticity.