



Saint Sébastien Martyr, Oil On Canvas 19th Century



2 950 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 88

Width : 66

Description

Saint Sebastian Martyr tied to a tree Oil on canvas, French school of the second half of the XIXe century Very good overall condition, minor accidents to frame Dimensions with frame 88x66 cm The young Roman officer converted to Christianity is depicted tied to a tree, his body pierced with arrows, in an attitude of suffering and hope. His gaze raised to heaven, he seems already turned towards the hope of salvation, in keeping with traditional iconography of the saint. Above him, the young saint's halo floats discreetly. The painter pays particular attention to the anatomical study of the model. The powerfully modeled torso, the play of light on the flesh and the rendering of muscles testify to solid academic training. The gray-toned landscape and heavy sky reinforce the dramatic dimension of the

Dealer

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scene. To the right of the figure we see a shield and helmet at the foot of the tree, recalling his status as a Roman soldier. The painting follows in the tradition of academic representations of the XIXe century, when the figure of Saint Sebastian offered painters the opportunity to reconcile religious subject matter, study of the male nude and pathetic expression. The free, sensitive brushwork, particularly in the treatment of the face and skin tone, evokes a studio work based on a live model. The reverse bears the stamp of the artist's studio. The reverse bears the stamp of the color merchant A. Trille, boulevard des Capucines in Paris, an active supplier to many artists in the second half of the XIXe century, an element that confirms a French execution of this period. Saint Sebastian, an officer in the imperial guard under Diocletian, was condemned for his Christian faith around the year 288. Tied to a tree and riddled with arrows, he survived according to legend before finally being executed. His image was immensely popular in Western art, from the Renaissance to the XIXe century. Artists were particularly seduced by the possibility of depicting a heroic nude inspired by Antiquity while retaining a religious subject deeply charged with spiritual emotion. In the XIXe century, this iconography remained very present in Salons and academic teaching, where it constituted a privileged exercise in anatomical virtuosity and composition.