



Baron: Nymphs Bathing In A Forest And Idealized Landscape.



2 700 EUR

Signature : Baron Charles

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 65 cm cadre 82cm

Height : 54,5 cm cadre 71 cm

Description

Nymphs at the Bath, a work by Henri Baron (1816-1885) in the Romantic and pastoral tradition of 19th-century France, blends mythology, discreet sensuality and the poetry of nature. This is a sensual interpretation of one of mythology's important scenes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, as the nymphs, who used to accompany Diana to the bath, are spied on by the hunter Acteon. Beyond the mythological subject, this painting evokes a vision of an idealized pastoral paradise materializing a harmony between human and nature a meditation on innocence, the latter threatened by the outside gaze. The forest is no mere backdrop, enveloping the characters in a protective atmosphere, with immense trees, calm, luminous water, a vegetal chiaroscuro ambience; the ruins in the

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background remind us that human achievements remain ephemeral in contrast to nature, which becomes a timeless space. The light draws the eye to the female figures like a stage in a natural theater. The gaze gradually descends to the young woman entering the water, she is in an unstable posture, her shirt slipping down her body, her gaze turned towards the viewer, she creates a lively, spontaneous movement, all delicacy, almost theatrical. This work suggests nostalgia for an idealized pastoral paradise that the Romantic 19th century often sought to reinvent in the face of modernity and the development of industrialization. Dimensions: frame 82 x 71 cm panel 65 x 54.5 cm oil on canvas marouflaged on panel - signed lower right - old restorations - wood and gilded stucco frame. Henri Charles Antoine Baron (1816-1885) was a French artist born in Besançon, a pupil of Jean Gigoux. He exhibited at the Paris Salon from 1840 and quickly gained a reputation, with the Duc d'Aumale awarding him a major commission. The Empress Eugénie bought him an important work, "Fête officielle au Palais des Tuileries pendant l'Exposition universelle de 1867", exhibited at the 1868 Salon, and he presented "l'Hiver", also a highly acclaimed work at the 1878 Exposition Universelle in Paris. He worked regularly with the artist Louis Français, some of whose works he co-signed; active in defending the profession, he participated in and co-founded the magazine "les artistes contemporains". His recognition was crowned by the award of the Légion d'Honneur.