



PROANTIC
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Workshop Of Joseph Vernet, Late XVIIIe Century. View Of A Harbor In The Moonlight With A Camp

5 900 EUR



Signature : Joseph Vernet

Period : 18th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 81

Height : 57

Description

French School, late 18th century
Moonlit Port Scene with a Campfire
Oil on canvas
With its giltwood frame: 57 × 81 cm. Canvas: 48 × 74 cm
This nocturnal harbour scene belongs fully to the vogue for moonlit maritime views that dominated French painting in the wake of Joseph Vernet and his followers. Beneath a heavy sky where the moon breaks through the clouds, the roadstead is illuminated by a silvery glow reflected on the calm waters. On the left, the silhouettes of three-masted ships emerge from the darkness, while in the foreground a group of figures gathered around a fire introduces a warm, narrative accent, creating the characteristic contrast of light found in such compositions. On the right, a piece of classical architecture -- terrace, portico, or pedimented building --

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anchors the scene in an idealized Mediterranean port, directly inherited from Vernet's models. The construction of the image, the balance between dark masses and luminous highlights, and the interplay between moonlight and the terrestrial fire all recall Vernet's great nocturnes, notably *La Nuit; un port de mer au clair de lune* (Louvre, 1771) and its variants preserved in Versailles and Avignon. Widely disseminated from the late 18th century onward, these works inspired a substantial production of studio reductions and replicas, created to satisfy the growing demand of collectors drawn to these early romantic atmospheres. The more intimate format of the present painting, together with its execution and certain simplified details, suggests an artwork produced within this studio tradition, executed by a painter trained in the orbit of Vernet or his direct followers, active between 1780 and 1820. The work demonstrates a solid command of nocturnal effects and a sensibility faithful to the Vernetian spirit, while adopting the visual codes of paintings intended for a broader market eager for poetic and spectacular maritime landscapes. Excellent condition. Sold with a certificate of authenticity.