



17th-century Venetian-cretan School, Adoration Of The Shepherds



1 800 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 51

Height : 42

Description

17th-century Venetian-Cretan school Adoration of the Shepherds Oil on panel, 42 x 51 cm The painting depicts the Adoration of the Shepherds in a dense and intricate composition, dominated by a warm color palette ranging from bright reds to deep greens, from earthy browns to the luminous whites of the drapery. At the center of the scene, the Virgin Mary, dressed in red and an ochre cloak, leans tenderly over the Child, laid in a woven basket and wrapped in pure white cloths. Around him, the shepherds approach in an attitude of wonder and devotion: some kneeling, others leaning forward with intense expressions and powerful bodies. Above, two angels glide among luminous clouds holding a scroll, in a typical iconographic arrangement. Light filters in selectively, creating strong chiaroscuro contrasts

Dealer

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that enhance the Nativity. The work is part of the flourishing tradition of the 17th-century Venetian-Cretan school, a unique cultural phenomenon born from the encounter between Byzantine painting and the Venetian Renaissance. Crete, under the rule of the Venetian Republic since 1204, became an artistic melting pot where painters trained in the Greek Orthodox tradition gradually assimilated the Western figurative vocabulary, while retaining the solemn character and compositional solidity of the Byzantine heritage. The result was a highly captivating hybrid style, characterized by monumental figures, vivid colors, and a particular attention to naturalistic detail that coexists with compositional schemes of traditional origin. During the 17th century, many Cretan artists worked on the island, in Venice, and among the Greek communities on the Italian mainland, contributing to the spread of this syncretic artistic language throughout the eastern Mediterranean.