



Maximilian Pfeiler (active Ca. 1683-1721), Still Life With White And Black Grapes



4 600 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 47

Height : 63,5

Description

Maximilian Pfeiler (active from 1683 to ca. 1721) Still Life with White and Black Grapes Oil on canvas, 63.5 x 47 cm With frame, 77 x 63 cm Very little biographical information and only fragmentary chronological references survive regarding Maximilian Pfeiler, but his extant works allow us to clearly outline his artistic profile and the significant role he played in European figurative art between the late 17th century and the early decades of the 18th century. Born in Prague, Pfeiler is documented in 1683 as a member of the city's Painters' Guild, a fact that attests to his completed training and early integration into the local professional community. According to sources, he was a student of Christian Berentz, a painter of German origin who specialized in still life and whose artistic

Dealer

Ars Antiqua srl

Antiquaire généraliste

Tel : +39 02 29529057

Via C. Pisacane, 55 - 57

Milano 20129

career unfolded between the Netherlands and Rome. Through Berentz, Pfeiler came into contact with the Northern European tradition of the genre, characterized by meticulous naturalistic rendering, a strong focus on texture, and a refined use of color. It is not entirely clear whether his apprenticeship with Berentz took place directly in Rome; however, it is certain that Pfeiler was active in the papal capital at least as early as 1694. There, the artist successfully integrated into a vibrant and competitive artistic milieu, establishing collaborations with established painters such as Francesco Trevisani and Michele Rocca. His presence in Rome in the late 17th century coincided with a period of particular popularity for still life, a genre appreciated both for its decorative value and for its subtle symbolic allusions to abundance, transience, and the cycle of life. The Still Life with White and Black Grapes fits squarely within this context and stands as an emblematic example of Pfeiler's work. The composition, built around a balanced arrangement of grape clusters of various varieties, leaves, and delicate flowers, reveals an extraordinary attention to the tactile quality of the surfaces: the grapes appear plump and translucent, bathed in a soft light that enhances their chromatic nuances, ranging from golden green to purplish red. The dark, atmospheric background helps to isolate the natural elements, lending the scene an intimate and contemplative tone. These whimsical and distinctive compositions found favor with prominent collectors. Some of Pfeiler's works, for example, were included in Cardinal Fesch's collection, attesting to the high level of esteem the artist had achieved. The last documented records of Maximilian Pfeiler date back to 1721; it is likely that he spent most of his life in Rome, enjoying a solid and enduring reputation. The Still Life with White and Black Grapes thus conveys the image of a painter capable of blending Nordic rigor with Italian sensibility, offering an original and highly elegant synthesis within the landscape of Baroque

still life.