



Germany, 17th Century, A Fight Between A Lion And Dogs

2 400 EUR



Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 23

Height : 17

Depth : 9

Description

Germany, 17th century Clash between a lion and dogs Carved wood, 17 x 23 x 9 cm This refined carved wood micro-sculpture, attributable to 17th-century Venetian craftsmanship, represents an important testament to the reception of Baroque dynamism in the applied and plastic arts of the Adriatic region. The work translates a frenzied hunting scene into the three-dimensionality of the material, focusing on the dramatic core of the ferocious clash: an imposing lion, captured at the moment of peak muscular tension, defends itself against the combined assault of two Molosser dogs, which pounce on the predator with anatomical ferocity and furious expressiveness. The woodcarver demonstrates a masterful command of the wood--presumably a dense and compact wood

Dealer

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such as boxwood--ideal for rendering the minute details and the complex modulation of volumes without compromising the structural stability of the small artifact. From an iconographic and formal perspective, the composition is markedly influenced by the style of Peter Paul Rubens, whose famous paintings depicting hunts for big cats --widely disseminated throughout Europe thanks to graphic reproductions and printed translations by Flemish engravers such as Schelte a Bolswert--exerted a lasting fascination on Baroque artisans. In interpreting this cultural climate, the Venetian artist succeeds in synthesizing the overwhelming energy of the Antwerp master with his own Venetian sensibility, characterized by a vibrant rendering of surfaces and a pronounced chiaroscuro contrast. The lion's thick mane, rendered through sinuous, deeply carved locks, interacts with the volumetric texture of the dogs' fur and the agitation of their entangled bodies, amplifying the effects of light and shadow and imparting to the group a sense of perpetual and dramatic movement. The sculpture fits squarely within the category of art objects intended for the refined circles of private collecting and 17th-century Wunderkammern--contexts in which technical virtuosity, the exotic nature of the subject, and the small scale were the primary criteria for aesthetic appreciation.