



17th Century, Panel Depicting St. John The Evangelist



2 400 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 40

Height : 65

Description

17th century Panel depicting St. John the Evangelist
Walnut wood with velvet backing, 65 x 40 cm
This refined high-relief sculpture, dating to the 17th century and masterfully carved from walnut wood, depicts St. John the Evangelist in a moment of solemn theological inspiration. The work, originally conceived in all likelihood as an integral part of a more complex liturgical furnishings ensemble (the panel of a pulpit, a choir loft, or the door of a tabernacle), is now presented as a standalone piece mounted on an elegant panel covered in ochre-yellow velvet, whose chromatic contrast enhances the warm, deep brown patina of the wood. The complex iconography of the Evangelist is rendered here according to the canons of the Counter-Reformation Baroque tradition, blending

Dealer

Ars Antiqua srl

Antiquaire généraliste

Tel : +39 02 29529057

Via C. Pisacane, 55 - 57

Milano 20129

mystical intimacy with a vibrant sculptural rendering. The saint is depicted seated, his body positioned with a slight twist that lends dynamism to the composition. With his left hand, he holds and unfurls a long, unrolled scroll--a symbol of the Gospel and its apocalyptic visions--which slides diagonally down his torso to rest on an elaborately turned baluster that serves as an ideal perspectival barrier. His right hand is raised in a gesture of argument or blessing, with the fingers slightly bent to emphasize the moment of divine revelation. From a formal standpoint, the woodcarver demonstrates remarkable technical skill, evident above all in the rich drapery enveloping the figure. The robes gather in dense folds around the legs, alternating deep areas of shadow with areas of raking light that accentuate the body's three-dimensional volume. The facial features, framed by flowing, tousled hair that falls over the shoulders, express a serene and youthful concentration, surmounted by a circular halo finely carved and decorated with a punch-engraved pattern of radiating geometric motifs. On the left, perched on a faux architectural element serving as the backrest of the seat, is the eagle--a traditional attribute of John's tetramorph--symbolizing the saint's ability to elevate his thoughts to the highest peaks of divine contemplation. The work fits squarely within the artistic tradition of central Italy or the Po Valley, where expressive naturalism was skillfully combined with the devotional needs of the era.