



Winter Garden - Large Naturalistic Painting, Signed And Dated 1881.



2 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Oil on canvas depicting an elegant winter garden featuring an abundance of ornamental plants arranged in large terracotta pots. Dominated by majestic palm trees with broad, drooping leaves, the composition also features various flowering plants and greenhouse plants, creating a particularly harmonious and refined botanical setting. Developed throughout the 19th century thanks to advances in iron-and-glass architecture, winter gardens experienced a considerable boom in bourgeois and aristocratic residences. The craze for horticulture, the introduction of new species brought back from distant expeditions, and the growing taste for the exotic transformed these spaces into veritable botanical salons. More than just a greenhouse, the winter garden became a room in its own right within the home--a place

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for entertaining, strolling, and contemplation, where palm trees, rare plants, refined furniture, and works of art coexisted. This passion for plants left a profound mark on the decorative arts of the second half of the 19th century. Painters, in turn, embraced these lush settings, where the play of light, the contrasts in foliage, and the diversity of species offered particularly alluring subjects. This painting is fully in keeping with this fascination for the winter garden, bringing together palm trees, greenhouse plants, and ornamental foliage in a single composition within an atmosphere that is both elegant and intimate. The artist sensitively captures the hushed ambiance characteristic of the horticultural interiors of his time. The composition is skillfully constructed around the varying heights of the vegetation, creating depth and movement while remaining perfectly clear. The large foliage structures the space, while the flowering plants in the foreground add color and delicacy to the whole scene. The brushwork appears supple and lively. The foliage is rendered with broad brushstrokes enhanced by luminous highlights that accurately capture the variations in texture and the play of light. The flowers, meanwhile, are rendered with a richer texture--sometimes slightly impasto--which animates the surface of the canvas and gives it a particularly decorative presence. The palette, dominated by deep greens, is warmed by brown and ochre tones that contribute to the work's cozy atmosphere. This free yet masterful execution reflects a careful observation of the plant world while maintaining a genuine decorative sensibility. The work bears the signature "A. Michaux" in the lower left corner, along with the date 1881. Previously re-stretched during an earlier restoration, the canvas is now in very good condition. It retains all the freshness of its execution and presents itself beautifully. Some slight signs of age are visible along the lower edge, but they do not detract from the viewing experience. With its generous dimensions, rich composition, and

high-quality execution, this painting is a captivating testament to the taste for winter gardens and horticultural collections that characterized the elegant interiors of the late 19th century. Dimensions: Height: 131 cm; Width: 97.5 cm Condition: Previously re-stretched. Very good overall condition. Some slight signs of age along the lower edge. Beautiful presentation.