



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

"allegory Of Learning," Oil On Canvas, Late 17th Century



1 700 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

"Allegory of Erudition" Late 17th century Oil on canvas
Canvas: 51x46 cm Frame: 19th-century wooden frame, 62x57 cm
The painting depicts two *putti* (cherubs) engaged in writing. In the foreground, the *putto* facing the viewer holds a sheet of parchment in his left hand and a pen in his right, poised to write, while the other--seen from behind--watches with close attention and curiosity. The scene is set against a lightly sketched landscape featuring a tree on the left and rolling hills in the background, all bathed in twilight light.

The lighting scheme emphasizes the strong contrast between light and shadow, highlighting the sculptural quality of the figures and focusing attention on the act of writing. The warm tones of the flesh are set against the brown hues of the

Dealer

Ghidotti Guido dipinti antichi

Tableaux anciens

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landscape, reflecting a sensibility typical of the Baroque painting tradition.

The work represents an allegory of erudition, understood as the practice of study, knowledge, and learning. Writing implements serve as symbolic attributes of knowledge, while the *putti*--figures frequently employed in allegorical painting during the 16th and 17th centuries--act as personifications of intellectual virtues. The figures' focused demeanor underscores the value of discipline and the transmission of knowledge.

In terms of composition, chiaroscuro treatment, and the depiction of the *putti*, the work belongs to the tradition of 17th-century Italian allegorical painting, a period when child figures were often used to embody abstract concepts such as the arts, virtues, and branches of knowledge. The quality of the modeling and the intimate atmosphere evoke stylistic models from the Emilian and Roman Baroque traditions.