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18th-century Dutch School - Riders' Rest, In The Style Of Philips Wouwerman

480 EUR



Signature : École Hollandaise du XVIIIe siècle dans le goût de Philips Wouwerman

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gouache

Width : 16 cm

Height : 12 cm

Description

Dutch School, 18th Century. In the style of Philips Wouwerman (1619-1668). Riders Halting Before an Encampment. Watercolor gouache on paper - 18th century. Description: Delicate and particularly appealing, this 18th-century watercolor gouache belongs to the great tradition of Dutch equestrian painting, directly inspired by the compositions of Philips Wouwerman, one of the most celebrated horse painters of the Dutch Golden Age. Executed with remarkable finesse, this small composition concentrates, within a compact format, all the narrative richness that made Dutch cabinet painting so popular with European collectors of the 17th and 18th centuries. The scene depicts riders halting before an encampment, probably during a military deployment or journey. Two elegant riders,

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mounted on their horses, exchange a few words with a young servant who has come to offer them a drink, while a dog, peacefully lying at their feet, reinforces the impression of calm and trust. On the left, a young boy tends to a horse that has been unsaddled near a watering hole, adding a subtle liveliness to the overall composition. On the right, a second horse waits, held close to the tent, while the landscape opens in the distance to a luminous horizon shrouded in a light mist. The scene perfectly conveys the peaceful, almost theatrical atmosphere that Dutch artists were able to create in scenes of travel and encampment.

Iconographic Analysis: The theme of riders resting is among the most sought-after subjects in 17th-century Dutch painting. Unlike depictions of battles, these works favor moments of rest, chance encounters, or scenes of daily life where humans and animals coexist naturally. They celebrate less heroism than elegance, horsemanship, and the harmony between figures and landscape. Here, the horses naturally form the true center of the composition. Their anatomy is observed with precision, their poses are varied, while the figures, treated with great delicacy, contribute to a lively narrative without ever disrupting the overall balance. The reclining dog, a frequent detail in Wouwerman's work, symbolizes loyalty and adds a familiar touch that further humanizes the scene.

Stylistic Analysis:

The work intelligently incorporates the main aesthetic codes developed by Philips

Wouwerman: a composition built around horses; elegantly dressed figures; a succession of planes creating a beautiful depth; soft, diffused light; landscapes opening onto a slightly hazy horizon; and a balance between narrative animation and pastoral calm. The painter demonstrates excellent mastery of watercolor gouache, using the transparency of watercolor for distant views while gouache adds more texture to the foreground and figures. The white highlights subtly accentuate the fabrics, harnesses, and the horses' forms. The color palette is particularly

harmonious. Golden ochres, siennas, warm browns, and slightly bluish greens create a welcoming atmosphere, while the sky, rendered in pearl gray and silvery blue tones, diffuses a soft light characteristic of the Dutch tradition. A few touches of red in the saddles and costumes discreetly enliven the composition without disrupting its balance.

Philips Wouwerman and His Influence: Philips Wouwerman (Haarlem, 1619-1668) remains the most celebrated painter of equestrian scenes from the Dutch Golden Age. His compositions, featuring riders, military halts, hunting parties, inns, and lively landscapes, enjoyed immense success throughout Europe. His style was widely imitated throughout the 17th and 18th centuries by numerous Dutch, Flemish, German, and French artists who developed this taste for elegant scenes where horses become the true protagonists of the painting. The present work fully belongs to this pictorial tradition.

Composition: The composition is based on a particularly balanced construction. The main group of two riders naturally forms the focal point of the scene. The eye is then led to the young woman and then to the white horse on the right before returning, thanks to the young boy and the packhorse placed on the left, creating a fluid movement of the gaze. The lines of the landscape and the masses of clouds gradually open the perspective towards a distant, light-filled horizon. This skillful composition gives this small work a remarkable sense of depth.

Technique: Watercolor gouache on paper. Extremely meticulous work. Precise drawing. Very high quality of execution. Numerous highlights. Excellent preservation of colors.

Dimensions: 16 x 12 cm.

Condition: The work is presented in very good condition, retaining all the freshness of its palette and the finesse of its execution. The support shows only the slight signs of age consistent with an antique work. Its giltwood frame shows some discreet wear consistent with use, which contributes to the charm and authenticity of the whole.

Our opinion: This

delightful gouache is an excellent example of the enduring nature of the style created by Philips Wouwerman well into the second half of the 18th century. Its cabinet format, pictorial quality, elegant composition, and the delicate rendering of the horses make it a particularly appealing work for any lover of Dutch painting, equestrian scenes, or Old Master drawings. Shipping: Professionally and meticulously packaged.

#DutchSchool #PhilipsWouwerman

#DutchSchool #OldMasterPainting #Gouache

#Watercolor #Horses #EquestrianScene

#18thCenturyArt #OldMaster #DutchLandscape

#CabinetPainting #ClassicalArt #ArteCollection

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