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The Surgeon's Surgery. Attrib. To Hendrik Maertensz. Sorgh (1610-1670) Oil On Canvas, 25 × 3

900 EUR



Signature : Hendrik Maertensz. Sorgh (attribué)

Period : 17th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Oil painting

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| Description |
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This genre scene depicts the interior of a barber-surgeon's surgery, where a practitioner is carefully examining the scalp of a young boy seated on a stool. Beside him, a woman - probably the child's mother - watches the procedure with a mixture of attention and concern. The artist captures with great naturalism a scene from everyday life in the United Provinces in the 17th century, a time when the barber-surgeon played a vital role in folk medicine. The composition is centred on this group of three figures, whose gazes and gestures naturally draw the eye towards the patient. The young boy's smile, the practitioner's concentration and the woman's attentive demeanour lend the scene a remarkable psychological authenticity. We see a collection of glazed pots, apothecary

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jars and a large glass vase resting on its stand - elements that clearly evoke the world of the surgeon and medicinal preparations. Their rendering reveals a true mastery of the effects of texture and light, characteristic of the finest Dutch painters of interior scenes. The warm colour palette, dominated by red earth tones, browns and ochres, together with the subtle chiaroscuro that shapes the figures, places this work squarely within the tradition of Dutch genre painting of the Golden Age. Beyond the quality of its execution, this work captivates with its extraordinary observational accuracy. The slight withdrawal of the young boy's leg, an instinctive reaction to pain, lends the scene a spontaneity rarely encountered. This ability to capture a fleeting, almost imperceptible gesture brings the work into line with the finest 17th-century Dutch genre scenes, where the accuracy of movement plays a full part in the narrative power of the composition. This is probably the most compelling detail in the painting. Second-rate painters are capable of reproducing costumes or objects; by contrast, rendering an involuntary movement--a bodily reflex observed in the moment--in a credible manner is far rarer. It is precisely this sort of detail that brings the scene to life and reinforces the case for attributing the work to the immediate circle of Hendrik Maertensz. Sorgh. The attribution to Hendrik Maertensz. Sorgh appears particularly compelling. Active in Rotterdam, Sorgh was one of the leading specialists in scenes of everyday life, depicting taverns, kitchens and markets, as well as doctors' and surgeons' surgeries. His work is distinguished by a keen observation of human behaviour and a constant focus on everyday objects, which become key elements of the composition. Provenance This painting is accompanied by its original auction certificate drawn up by the office of Maître A. Berra, a notary in Vittel, describing the work as: 'A painting of the 17th-century Dutch school, attributed to Master Sorgh, depicting a

trepanation."This document confirms that the attribution to Hendrik Maertensz. Sorgh, as well as the identification of the subject, had already been established at a previous public auction, providing an interesting account of the work's historical provenance. Works by Hendrik Maertensz. Sorgh are now held in the world's leading collections, notably at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Louvre, the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam, and in numerous European and American museums.

Comparable lots at public auctions

Attributed to Hendrik Maertensz SORGH (c.1611-1670) La barbería (The Barber's Shop) Lot No. 625 Oil on canvas 62 x 45 cm Estimate: EUR8,000 Painting and Decorative Arts - Jewellery 8 December 2013 Ansorena, Madrid, Spain Details Reproduced on page 155 of the catalogue

Attributed to Hendrik Maertensz SORGH (c.1611-1670) Wirtshausinterieur mit speisenden und trinkenden Bauern (Interior of a tavern where peasants are eating and drinking) Lot No. 1434 Oil on panel (oak) 24 x 33.5 cm Hammer price: EUR2,400 ANTIQUITIES & MODERN ART 1 December 2007 Kunstauktionshaus Schloss Ahlden GmbH Ahlden, Germany Details Reproduced on page 306 of the catalogue

Attributed to Hendrik Maertensz SORGH (c.1611-1670) Tavern Interior with Peasants Making Music Lot No. 81 Oil on panel 40.3 x 55.6 cm Hammer price: EUR20,769 (£14,000) Estimate: EUR11,868 - EUR17,802 (£8,000 - £12,000) Old Master Paintings 6 December 2006 Bonhams London, United Kingdom Details: indistinctly signed 'MSo' lower left Reproduced on page 102 of the catalogue

Attributed to Hendrik Maertensz SORGH (c.1611-1670) Besög hos lægen ("Consult your doctor") Lot No. 332 Oil on panel 34 x 27 cm Hammer price: EUR3,498 (DKK 26,000) Estimate: EUR4,036 - EUR4,709 (DKK 30,000 - DKK 35,000) 24 February 1999 Bruun Rasmussen Copenhagen, Denmark Details

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