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André Charigny "still Life With Flour And Pomegranates" Franche-comté - Besançon



980 EUR

Signature : André CHARIGNY (1902 - 2000)

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on cardboard

Width : 35cm

Height : 27cm

Description

André Charigny Paris, 1902-2000, Besançon "Still Life with Flour and Pomegranates " Oil on cardboard, 27x35cm Dimensions with frame: 42x50cm Signed upper left This remarkable still life brilliantly illustrates the art of André Charigny, a painter from Franche-Comté whose work demonstrates remarkable fidelity to the great French realist tradition while embracing the chromatic explorations of the 20th century. Through this seemingly simple composition, the artist transcends everyday objects to imbue them with a monumental and silent presence, where each element contributes to a meditation on light, matter, and abundance. The eye is immediately drawn to the spectacular mound of flour spilling from a large overturned earthenware bowl. This white material, rendered with exceptional

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virtuosity, becomes the true luminous heart of the composition. The generously modeled paint captures with remarkable accuracy the powdery texture of the flour, whose contours catch the rays of low-angled light. A long wooden handle--likely that of a shovel or a baker's tool--discreetly cuts across the scene and guides the viewer's gaze toward this immaculate mountain, the true visual pinnacle of the painting. Arranged around this central core is a group of objects chosen with a keen sense of balance. A sturdily shaped stoneware jug, a large wicker basket, a deep, dark basin, a glass of red wine, and a decorated earthenware bowl make up a repertoire of household utensils evoking rural kitchens and artisanal traditions. At their feet, two pomegranates in warm reds introduce a splash of color of rare intensity. Their vibrant hues subtly echo the deep red in the glass, creating a chromatic dialogue that animates the entire composition. Light is one of the main subjects of the painting here. Coming from the left, it shapes each object with almost tactile precision. Deep shadows emphasize the volume of the containers, while highlights glide delicately across the glazed ceramics, the fibers of the basket, and the grains of flour. This mastery of chiaroscuro places Charigny within the long tradition of great still-life painters, from Chardin to the 19th-century French Realists, while retaining a personal style that is freer and more concise. The deliberately limited palette is dominated by golden ochres, brown earth tones, bluish grays, and luminous whites. This warm harmony, punctuated only by the brilliance of the pomegranates and the ruby transparency of the wine, lends the work an atmosphere of calm and fulfillment. The paint application, supple and generous, reveals a confident execution in which each brushstroke remains perceptible without ever disrupting the unity of the whole. Beyond its purely aesthetic qualities, this still life possesses a strong symbolic dimension. Flour, an essential ingredient in bread, evokes working the land,

daily sustenance, and abundance. Pomegranates, fruits traditionally associated with fertility, prosperity, and rebirth since ancient times, enrich this interpretation with a more universal dimension. As for the glass of wine, it evokes both the simple pleasures of the table and cultural references deeply rooted in French tradition. Charigny thus creates a true celebration of the earth's bounty, where even the most humble objects acquire a timeless nobility. This work perfectly reveals André Charigny's talent for transforming a domestic scene into a composition of great visual power. The balance of volumes, the richness of the materials, and the exceptional quality of the light attest to a painter who has reached full maturity, capable of infusing even the most ordinary objects with true poetry. Rarely has the simplicity of everyday life found such an accurate expression, where technical mastery is entirely at the service of the quiet emotion and enduring beauty of humble things.