Architectural Capriccio With A Storm At Sea, In Gouache, From The Late 18th Century



600 EUR

Signature : Fin du XVIIIe siècle

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Gouache

Width : 14

Height : 9

Description

Late 18th centuryArchitectural capriccio with a storm at seaTempera (gouache) on paper mounted on woodPainting dimensions: 9 × 14 cmDimensions with frame: 16 × 21 cmA delicate gouache tempera on paper mounted on wood, dating to the late 18th century, depicting an evocative coastal architectural capriccio set against a violent storm. The composition combines elements of fantasy with references to classical architecture: a monumental building with a colonnaded portico dominates the scene on the right, while on the left, a choppy sea puts several boats in distress, captured at the storm's peak. A bolt of lightning splits the leaden sky, accentuating the narrative tension and the play of light.The work belongs to the popular genre of the architectural capriccio, which developed

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between the 17th and 18th centuries. The term refers to idealized views in which real monuments, ancient ruins, and imaginary buildings are freely combined according to aesthetic rather than topographical criteria. The result is a scene of great evocative power, in which the memory of antiquity blends with scenographic invention.From an iconographic perspective, the painting presents a theme particularly cherished in late 18th-century figurative art: the contrast between the eternal monumentality of classical architecture and the uncontrollable power of nature. The waves crashing against the rocks, the sailors busy bringing their boats to safety, and the sky streaked with lightning introduce a dramatic element that foreshadows a sensitivity to the "sublime."The atmospheric rendering, achieved through light glazes and delicate tonal transitions typical of gouache, lends depth to the composition, while the small figures, vividly characterized with touches of red and blue, enliven the scene without detracting from the monumental structure.Small gouaches like this one were particularly sought after by travelers on the Grand Tour, who wished to bring home evocative images of classical Italy. Thanks to the technique's vibrant colors and compact size, they served as elegant collectibles--easily transportable and destined for cabinets of curiosities, study rooms, and aristocratic collections.In terms of technical skill, compositional balance, and decorative appeal, this painting represents a refined example of small-format art produced for the cultured collectors of the late 18th century, combining the charm of classical ruins, the theatrical flair of the capriccio, and the evocative power of a stormy seascape.- All our works are accompanied by a detailed certificate of authenticity.- Professional packaging and insured shipping to ensure maximum safety during transport.- For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at +39 329 319 4887 - info@dequart.com- Option

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