



Pair Of Reliefs Depicting Saint Luke And Saint Matthew, Made Of Poplar Wood, Italy

4 200 EUR



Period : 17th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Painted wood

Width : 33,5

Height : 42,5

Description

Dimensions of each relief: 42.5 cm high x 33.5 cm wide. The symbols of the Tetramorph allow us to identify the evangelists depicted. In the case of Saint Luke, his attribute is the ox, an emblem of sacrifice and the priesthood, since his Gospel begins at the Temple in Jerusalem with the episode of the priest Zechariah. In the relief, the animal appears docile and lying at the saint's feet, serving as a pedestal or visual support for the composition. In the upper right corner is an easel on which the Virgin and Child is depicted, identifiable by the iconographic models of the Hodegetria or the Sedes Sapientiae. This element refers to the tradition, attested since the 6th century, according to which Saint Luke was not only a physician and evangelist, but also the first portraitist of the Virgin Mary. It is for this

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reason that Christian tradition considers him the patron saint of painters and artists. The scene takes place in a study or studio, where we see a shelf filled with books and an inkwell resting on the table--elements that highlight Luke's dual role as a sacred writer and a man of learning, while reinforcing his connection to the arts. As for Saint Matthew, he is recognized by the presence of the angel, a symbol of Christ's human nature and the Incarnation--a theme with which he begins his Gospel through the genealogy of Jesus. The angel does not merely accompany the evangelist, but acts as a conduit for divine inspiration, resting on his shoulder and guiding his hand--or, symbolically, his thoughts--as he writes the sacred text. Matthew is depicted as an elderly man of great wisdom, dressed in loose-fitting garments with heavy, stiff folds, characteristic of late Renaissance and Baroque sculpture. Resting on his lap is a voluminous handwritten book, identified as his Gospel, while on one side of the composition stands an ornamental vessel or a vase of flowers that completes the work's visual balance.