



PROANTIC

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Stained-glass Window Depicting Saint Barbara, Circa 1500



4 200 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Glass

Width : 50

Height : 71

Description

Stained-glass window depicting Saint BarbaraCirca 1500 - early 16th centuryGrisaille, silver yellow, and enamels on white glass.This stained-glass panel depicts Saint Barbara, one of the most venerated virgin saints of the late Middle Ages. The saint is depicted standing in a three-quarter view, her face radiating serenity, dressed in a long gown with soft folds accented with silver yellow along the edges. Her long blonde hair, also rendered in silver yellow, falls in waves over her shoulders. A radiant halo underscores her holiness.In her left hand she holds an open book, a symbol of her faith and wisdom, while her right hand holds a palm branch, a traditional attribute of martyrs, recalling her martyrdom and spiritual victory.Beside her stands a tower, her principal iconographic

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Tel : (0)2 37 21 37 74

Mobile : (0)6 80 22 62 46

85 rue des Rosiers, marché Biron, Allée 1- Stand 123 et Allée

2 - Stand 147-148 et 17, rue des changes Chartres

Chartres 28000

attribute. According to tradition, her father Dioscore locked her in a tower to shield her from Christian influences. After converting to Christianity, Barbe had a third window cut into the tower in honor of the Trinity. The tower thus symbolizes both her confinement and the steadfastness of her faith. The background features a simple landscape in which, on the right, a building appears alongside a tree with golden foliage, rendered in silver-yellow. The composition is characteristic of stained-glass work from the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries: the design is executed primarily in grisaille, enlivened by highlights of silver yellow, which bring light and depth to the hair, the plant elements, and the architectural details. The panel is set within a diamond-patterned stained-glass window, composed of white glass set in lead, bordered by side strips of red glass. This lead-framed design highlights the central scene while evoking the traditional presentation of secular and religious stained-glass windows from the early Renaissance. Through the finesse of its drawing, the figure's elongated elegance, the delicate rendering of the drapery, and the masterful use of grisaille and silver-yellow, this work is fully in keeping with the stained-glass tradition of the transitional period between the Flamboyant Gothic and the early influences of the Renaissance, around 1500.