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Jean Baptiste De La Rose, 1612-1687. Mediterranean Seascape Featuring The Royal Galley "la Réale"

18 900 EUR



Signature : Jean Baptiste de La Rose 1612-1687

Period : 17th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 170

Height : 115

Description

Oil on canvas, circa 1670-1680 Presented in a magnificent gilded wooden frame, richly carved with seashells and foliage. Louis XV period Overall dimensions: 115 x 170 cm. Canvas only: 94 x 150 cm In this vast, light-filled composition, Jean-Baptiste de La Rose showcases the full artistry of 17th-century Provençal marine painting. The viewer's gaze is drawn to a Mediterranean harbor dominated by steep cliffs, where fishermen and sailors bustle about their boats. Further out, the sea stretches beneath a clear sky, streaked with silvery clouds; in the center, a frigate fires a cannon salvo, while a majestic royal galley--likely La Réale, the emblem of the port of Toulon--glides across the waters, its red flags fluttering in the wind. The scene, both realistic and theatrical, illustrates the

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maritime power of the Kingdom of France under Louis XIV. La Rose, a painter from the port of Toulon, recreates the ships' rigging and the lives of seafarers with documentary precision, while infusing the work with a luminous poetry reminiscent of that of Claude Lorrain. The harbor's architecture, the distant hills, and the play of light create a harmonious depth where grandeur and everyday life intertwine. This work reflects La Rose's dual technical and artistic vision: a painter capable of celebrating Mediterranean beauty while glorifying the royal navy. It follows in the tradition of the great harbor views of the Grand Siècle, where art and politics converge to exalt mastery of the seas.

Biography -- Jean-Baptiste de La Rose

Jean-Baptiste de La Rose was born in Marseille around 1612-1614 and belonged to the generation of Provençal painters who gave the French navy a strong visual identity in the 17th century. Trained in the studio of the painter François Mimault, he developed a taste for harbor landscapes and the meticulous depiction of ships at a very early age. After a stint in the military--he was wounded during the siege of Casal in 1630--he devoted himself entirely to painting. His career took a decisive turn when he settled in Toulon, where in 1663 he became master painter of the port. In this capacity, he oversaw naval decoration and produced numerous seascapes for the arsenals, fleet quartermasters, and high-ranking officers of the kingdom. His luminous and descriptive style is distinguished by an almost documentary precision in his depictions of galleys, frigates, and Mediterranean ports. Admired by Charles Le Brun and François de Troy, he established himself as the most important Provençal marine painter of the Grand Siècle. He died in Toulon in 1687, leaving behind a prolific and highly sought-after body of work.

Works Held in Museums · The Port of La Ciotat in 1664 --

Musée de la Marine, Marseille An iconic harbor view, highly representative of his attention to detail. · View of the Port of Marseille (1666) --

Musée de la Marine, Marseille One of his most famous compositions, rich in architecture and maritime activity.· Mediterranean Harbor Scene -- Tatiou Maritime Museum A work typical of his luminous atmosphere and naval precision.· The Marquis de Seignelay and the Duke of Vivonne visit the galley *La Réale* -- Palace of Versailles A major painting celebrating the power of the royal fleet and the splendor of the galley La Réale.· Various harbor and seascape views -- Collections of the Louvre (drawings), the Toulon Museum, and several regional museums. Valuable insights into 17th-century Provençal maritime life. In excellent condition. Sold with a certificate of authenticity