



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Attributed To Giovanni Cariani (1485-1547), "triple Portrait"

25 000 EUR



Signature : Attributed to Giovanni Cariani

Period : 16th century

Condition : Prévoir restauration

Width : 100

Height : 86

Description

Overview and Artistic Significance We are pleased to present a remarkable 16th-century Venetian painting, an oil on canvas titled "Triple Portrait", which fully embodies the stylistic tradition of the High Renaissance. The work is firmly attributed to the great Venetian master Giovanni Cariani (1485-1547), whose style flourished under the powerful influence of Giorgione, Titian, and Palma the Elder.

Composition and Subject ("The Venetian Trio")

This captivating composition depicts a complex psychological encounter, commonly known as "The Venetian Trio" or the allegory of choice. The painting captures a high-tension moral dilemma or a romantic dialogue: a young woman on the right places her hand over her chest in a gesture of modesty and virtue (reminiscent of the

Dealer

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classical tradition of the Venus Pudica), while the female figure on the left leans toward her with an intense and persuasive gaze. A mysterious male figure observes this silent psychological duel from the deep shadows of the background.

Comparative Analysis and Unique Iconography A very famous version of this same subject, titled "The Call" (or The Detroit Trio), is housed in the permanent collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts (USA), where it is historically associated with Titian, Giorgione, and Sebastiano del Piombo. However, this magnificent canvas differs from its Detroit counterpart in two major ways:

Larger dimensions: Offering a more monumental and visually striking presence.

A unique still-life element: In the lower right corner, this version uniquely features a superb oriental rug covering the table, upon which rests a platter of bread partially draped under a fine white cloth. In Renaissance iconography, the covered bread and the luxurious rug enrich the work's meaning, evoking domestic stability, opulence, or a

sacred/profane union.

The Carved Frame The painting is set in a spectacular period frame of museum quality, characterized by exceptionally deep, hand-carved openwork, adorned with elegant scrolls, volutes, and stylized foliage.

Gilded with fine gold leaf, this rare frame likely dates from the late 16th or 17th century. It is a masterpiece of decorative art in its own right, considerably enhancing the painting's prestige.

Condition Report The oil on canvas exhibits a network of authentic age-related craquelure and a beautifully patinated surface throughout, confirming its great age. There are areas of surface soiling and an oxidized historic varnish (particularly in the upper portion and on the male figure's face). The canvas remains structurally stable, with no critical loss of material. It will benefit greatly from professional cleaning and varnish restoration, which will reveal the full depth of its colors and its full market value.