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Great Painting Signed Fb And Dated 1853, The Lovers



25 000 EUR

Signature : Friedrich August Bouterwek

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 156

Height : 189

Depth : 9

Description

A splendid oil painting on canvas, first canvas, attributed to the great German painter Friedrich August Bouterwek (1806-1867). Signed FB and dated 1853 at the bottom left, it depicts a romantic courtship scene set in the Italian countryside.

The composition features two young people at a fountain. The girl, elegantly dressed in the folk costume of central Italy, sits or leans against the edge of the fountain while behind her, a young suitor leans over a fence to offer her a small flower. A simple and delicate gesture around which the painter builds the entire

Dealer

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sentimental
narrative. The subtle psychological play between
the two protagonists
is particularly successful. The boy gazes intently
at the girl and
brings the flower to her hand; she seems to accept
his courtship but,
with a reserved and almost mischievous attitude,
avoids meeting his
gaze directly.

The female figure also constitutes the main
luminous and chromatic
center of the painting. The beautiful, evenly oval
face is modeled
with remarkable softness, framed by jet-black
hair adorned with red
ribbons and ornaments. Great attention is paid to
the depiction of
the costume: the bright red-orange sleeves
contrast with the deep
green of the full skirt, while a sheer white
embroidered fabric
crosses the bust, revealing the artist's remarkable
skill in
rendering transparencies.

The setting is particularly interesting. On the left,
a stone
fountain releases a lively jet of water into a large
container,
introducing a pleasant sense of everyday life. The
wooden fence,
meanwhile, spans the composition, separating the
foreground from the
vast landscape behind. Beyond the figures, an
almost flat countryside
opens up, bordered in the distance by blue hills
and dominated by a
broad sky streaked with light clouds. The painting
displays
remarkable execution, evident especially in the
flesh tones, the
description of the fabrics, and the ability to

pictorially
differentiate the different materials: the almost
impalpable
lightness of the white veil, the texture of the
green skirt, the
reflections of the jewels, the stone of the fountain,
and the moving
water.

The work is attributed to Friedrich August
Bouterwek, a German
painter who trained in Berlin and later in Paris
with Paul Delaroche.
During his stay in Italy, Bouterwek developed a
particular interest
in the life and folk customs of the peninsula,
subjects that recurred
repeatedly in his work through scenes set in the
Roman Campagna,
serenades, romantic encounters, and depictions of
young peasants.
This attribution is supported by interesting
elements both in the
initials FB, an abbreviation also documented in
works by the artist,
and in the chronology, the type of subject, and the
comparisons with
his Italian production (the painting is not
currently accompanied by
an expertise, but one can be requested upon
payment of the relevant
additional costs).

The beautiful, non-contemporary gilded frame,
richly crafted with
plant and ornamental motifs, effectively
complements the work,
enhancing its decorative character. It shows some
signs of aging and
small losses (see photo).

The vertical composition and monumental,
life-size figures make it
particularly suitable for a reception room, an

important entrance, a professional office, or a large, classical or contemporary space. The work has already been restored with small touches of color, but is in overall good condition.

Internal dimensions: H 163 W 129 cm

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