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Joseph Vernet's Studio, Late 18th Century. View Of A Harbor In The Moonlight With A Campfire

6 900 EUR



Signature : Joseph Vernet (Avignon 1714 - Paris 1789) & Atelier

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 81

Height : 57

Description

Oil on canvas (late 18th century) With its gilded wooden frame: 57 × 81 cm. Stretcher: 48 × 74 cm This nocturnal harbor scene is fully in keeping with the vogue for maritime moonlit scenes in French painting, following in the footsteps of Joseph Vernet and his followers. Under a heavy sky where the moon pierces the clouds, the harbor glows with a silvery light that reflects off the calm waters. On the left, the silhouettes of three-masted ships stand out against the twilight; fishermen are on the pier, while in the foreground, a group of people gathered around a fire are cooking, adding a warm, narrative touch and creating a contrast of light typical of these compositions. Above, classical architecture--a terrace, portico, or building with a pediment--anchors the scene in an idealized

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Mediterranean port, a legacy of "Vernetian" models. The composition of the image, the balance between dark masses and highlights, as well as the interplay between moonlight and the earthly fire, directly echo Vernet's great nocturnes, notably *La Nuit; A Seaport in Moonlight* (Louvre, 1771) and its variants held in Versailles and Avignon. These works, which were widely circulated from the late 18th century onward, gave rise to an abundant production of reductions and studio replicas, intended to meet a growing demand from art lovers captivated by these atmospheres that were romantic ahead of their time. The more intimate format of our painting, along with its execution featuring certain simplified details, suggests precisely a work stemming from this studio production, created by a painter trained within Vernet's circle or by one of his direct collaborators--active between 1780 and 1820. The work as a whole demonstrates a solid mastery of nocturnal effects and a sensibility faithful to the "Vernetian" spirit, while adopting the conventions of a style intended for a broader market eager for poetic and spectacular seascapes. In perfect condition. Sold with a certificate of authenticity