



PROANTIC
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Pair Of Renaissance Panels In Carved Oak - Scenes Of Charity - Flanders, Circa 1600

3 600 EUR



Period : 17th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Oak

Width : 49.5 cm

Height : 74 cm

Description

An important pair of carved oak panels in high relief, forming a particularly cohesive and decorative set, likely originally part of a ceremonial piece of furniture, a cabinet, or a late Renaissance paneling ensemble. Each panel is organized according to a highly elaborate architectural composition, punctuated by stepped moldings forming a succession of deeply profiled geometric frames. This decorative vocabulary, at once rigorous and exuberant, is characteristic of the Mannerist taste of the late 16th century. The central portion of each panel features a figurative scene rendered in high relief. On the first panel, two figures face each other. One of them appears to be handing a coin or an offering to the other while reaching into a pouch worn at his belt. The second figure, carrying a long staff and a small

Dealer

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satchel, can be interpreted as a poor man, a traveler, or a pilgrim. The scene thus appears to evoke the giving of alms to the needy, or more broadly, a representation of Charity. The second panel depicts a group of several figures gathered around a man who appears weakened or being supported. One of the figures also carries a long staff and a satchel. The scene can be understood as an evocation of aid given to the poor, the sick, or the traveler, in the same moral and charitable spirit as the first panel. Although the specific episode cannot be identified with certainty, the two scenes appear to belong to the same allegorical register, perhaps related to the virtues of Charity or Mercy. These central reliefs are surmounted by a particularly rich decorative scheme featuring putti, baskets of fruit, grape clusters, foliage, volutes, and fantastical creatures. Notably, small genies riding large sea monsters or fish-like creatures appear in the upper corners--a motif typical of the Mannerist ornamental repertoire prevalent in Flanders and northern Europe during the late Renaissance. The execution is vigorous, with figures sharply set off from the background and pronounced modeling of the faces, costumes, and accessories. The reliefs show beautiful signs of age on the protruding parts, bringing out lighter shades in the brown patina of the oak and emphasizing the depth of the carving. The set displays a beautiful consistency in craftsmanship, decoration, and patina. The two panels were clearly designed as a pair and retain great decorative appeal when displayed together. Probably Flemish or Franco-Flemish work from the late 16th century, circa 1580-1600. Original condition with a few cracks, signs of wear, minor imperfections, and repairs consistent with the panels' age. Reinforcing crossbars added to the reverse side. Shipping via carrier: 100 euros within France, 200 euros within the EU, and 300 euros to the rest of the world.