



"the Ambush" By Henri-joseph Boichard (1780-1871), Oil On Canvas



2 800 EUR

Signature : Henri Joseph Boichard (1780 -1871)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 65 cm toile / 77 cm cadre

Height : 54 cm toile / 67 cm cadre

Description

Provenance Work by H. Boichard, signed lower right. A handwritten label on the reverse reads: "H. Boichard, born in Versailles in 1783, student of Regnault." These details correspond to Henri-Joseph Boichard, a French painter trained by Jean-Baptiste Regnault. This annotation serves as documentary evidence accompanying the painting, though it does not specify its provenance. The title "L'Embascade" is offered for descriptive purposes.

Description In a mountainous landscape, an officer on horseback defends himself against several attackers on a narrow, rocky path. Riding a rearing gray horse, he raises his saber above his head. His dark uniform, accented with gold epaulets, contrasts with his red trousers and red headgear. In the center, a man grabs the reins while aiming a

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pistol at the rider. On the left, another figure, holding a bladed weapon, is knocked backward by a dog biting his throat. A third man appears in the shadow of the rock on the right. A pistol lying in the foreground underscores the violence of the confrontation. The composition combines the diagonal lines of the weapons and bodies with the horse's upward movement. The distant hills stand out against a sky of bluish-gray and ochre hues. The color palette favors earth tones, enlivened by red accents and the horse's light coat. A gilded frame with wide molding and an ornate inner border frames the scene.

Technique and Materials Oil on canvas mounted on a wooden stretcher with a central crossbar. The painting features careful rendering of the faces, clothing, and horse tack, with a freer touch in the rocks and distant landscapes. Wooden frame with a gilded surface.

Dating First half of the 19th century, probably around 1830-1850. This assessment is based on the romantic nature of the subject, the dramatic composition of the scene, and the treatment of the figures within the landscape.

Condition In good overall condition, with a visible network of craquelure. The owner reports no loss of paint or repairs. The frame shows signs of wear, cracks, and small chips in its gilded surface.

Use and Intended Display This narrative scene would be well suited for a collection of 19th-century paintings or a gallery dedicated to military and equestrian subjects. Its format allows for standalone display, where the details of the action remain clearly visible.

Dimensions canvas height - 54 cm
canvas width - 65 cm
height with frame - 67 cm
width with frame - 77 cm