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The Turkey Herder Surprised By A Gust Of Wind - Italian School (abruzzo) - Paolo Michetti



4 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 31 cm

Width : 26 cm

Description

THE TURKEY HERDER SURPRISED BY A GUST OF WIND Italian School -- Abruzzo / Naples, circa 1870-1873 Attributable to the early period of Francesco Paolo Michetti (1851-1929) Oil on canvas, 21.5 × 16 cm; set in a significant period gilded wood frame with bold molding and rounded corners. Note: This small oil painting depicts a young turkey herder caught off guard by a violent gust of wind. Viewed from a slightly low angle, the figure holds onto his wide-brimmed hat while his umbrella is blown inside out by the wind. Surrounding him, the turkeys are rendered with an extremely free painting style: broad dark masses are enlivened by touches of white, gray, and--above all--red, which suffice to distinguish the individual animals and bring the scene to life. The work

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bears strong affinities with the early period of Francesco Paolo Michetti (1851-1929) and the artistic milieu of Naples and Abruzzo where he trained. After arriving in Naples in the late 1860s, Michetti gravitated toward the realism of Filippo Palizzi. Around 1870, he began to gain recognition for small paintings featuring children, rural youths, and animals. His early pastoral scenes were directly inspired by his observations of the Abruzzo countryside and its people. The young herder's attire--wide dark hat, rustic clothing, dark coat or jacket, satchel, and colorful accents--belongs to the pastoral world of central and southern Italy that Michetti observed and painted during his youth. A particularly significant comparison can be drawn with Michetti's **Guardiana di tacchini** (Turkey Herder), a work signed and dated 1871; both paintings share the specific theme of a turkey herder in the Abruzzo landscape and the use of rapid, colorful brushstrokes to make the animals emerge from darker masses. The technique is precisely one of the painting's most interesting features. Despite its very small dimensions, the artist does not aim for meticulous detail. Forms emerge through the juxtaposition of brushstrokes: the blacks and browns of the plumage, grays and whites, the red accents of the turkeys' heads, the blue of the clothing, the reddish-brown of the jacket, and the rapidly brushed blue-gray sky. This economy of means lends the scene a striking sense of movement and immediacy. An analysis of Michetti's stylistic evolution suggests a date range of approximately 1870-1873. His works from this period still display bold chiaroscuro contrasts and a relatively dark palette. In 1874, his meeting with Mariano Fortuny in Portici marked a shift toward a lighter palette, more even lighting, and a different kind of chromatic virtuosity. The work's dark tonality, strong contrasts, rustic subject matter, the presence of a young figure with animals, and its spirited execution all align it closely with Michetti's earliest period--predating the shift toward

luminosity that characterizes much of his output from the mid-1870s onwards. The subject itself is quintessential to the young Michetti's repertoire: shepherds and shepherdesses, children, poultry, and animals from the Abruzzo countryside formed a significant part of his work during this time. Several documented works from 1871-1873 bear direct witness to this artistic exploration. The painting is housed in a remarkable antique gilded wood frame, which is notably wide in proportion to the canvas's small size. Its bold molding and rounded corners give the piece a commanding decorative presence and play an integral role in the work's overall character. Italy, circa 1870-1873. A work attributable to Francesco Paolo Michetti and his early Abruzzo period.

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