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Fernand Renault (1887-1939). "the Loving Couple" France, 1930s



12 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 163

Height : 128

Depth : 7

Description

A large-format work by Fernand Albert Renault, revealing the essential principles of his artistic maturity. The painting illustrates Renault's characteristic synthesis of a classical compositional structure and a free, energetic style, marked by the influence of Fauvism and the School of Paris of the interwar period. At the center of the composition is a nude couple set against a coastal landscape. Renault organizes the scene according to a balanced diagonal rhythm: the luminous female figure, rendered in broad, vibrant strokes of ochre and pink, serves as the primary visual focal point in the foreground. The male figure, rendered in denser shades of brown and olive, creates a tonal contrast and intensifies the dramatic interplay of light and shadow. In Renault's work, color acts as an autonomous

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expressive force. The scarlet, emerald, and lemon accents of the fabrics laid out on the ground not only depict the objects but also structure the emotional field of the work. The foliage and glimpses of sky are rendered with loose brushstrokes that suggest the movement of the air and the pulsing of the sun. The background scene depicting figures controlling horses holds particular significance. This recurring motif in Renault's work symbolizes vital energy and masculine initiative. In this composition, it interacts with the intimate scene in the foreground and reinforces the themes of attraction, strength, and inner drive. Unlike the academic treatment of the nude, Renault avoids any cold idealization. His figures exist within a space of color and light rather than through anatomical precision. Physicality is conveyed through the sculptural mass of the brushstrokes, where color replaces drawing. This characteristic places the work within the French Neo-Traditionalist movement of the 1930s, which sought to preserve figuration while rejecting excessive academic rigidity. The artist's signature appears in the lower right corner. Dimensions: Canvas 99 x 132 centimeters. Frame 128 x 163 centimeters. Medium: Oil on canvas. Condition: Good. The paint layer is stable, with no significant losses. The frame shows natural signs of age. Provenance: Private collection.