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The Martyrdom Of St. Erasmus - Circle Of Frans Francken II (antwerp, 1581-1642)



3 800 EUR

Signature : Cercle de Frans Francken II (Anvers, 1581 - 1642)

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 67

Height : 86

Description

"The Martyrdom of St. Erasmus" 17th-century Flemish master from the circle of Frans Francken II (Antwerp, 1581-1642) Oil on canvas

18th-century gilded frame Canvas: 75 x 57 cm

Frame: 85 x 67 cm Cleaning and re-lining have

been performed The painting depicts one of the rarest and most striking sacred subjects in ancient art and refers to the story of Erasmus, Bishop of

Formia, and his terrible martyrdom during the persecutions of Diocletian in 303 AD. The artist

rendered this heart-wrenching scene with

remarkable power in a dramatic composition

characterized by vivid colors. Nicolas Poussin's

famous work from 1628, on display in the

Vatican Pinacoteca, helped spread awareness of

this brutal episode. Poussin's interpretation of the

cruel martyrdom--depicting the saint's extreme

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torment as he was disemboweled by a winch--captured the interest of artists of the time, some of whom reinterpreted the scene. In this case, the painter depicts the martyrdom in the typical style of Flemish painting, choosing to set the scene inside a prison rather than outdoors, in keeping with the unmistakable characteristics of Northern art. The work features a meticulous rendering of every detail, from the instruments of torture to the colorful garments of the torturers and their headdresses. Emperor Diocletian, clad in a carmine-red cloak, looks on with satisfaction at the terrible punishment he himself has inflicted upon the saint, who lies naked on a wooden plank with his abdomen slit open by a sword; his entrails are being wound onto a winch operated by one of the executioners. The use of light and vivid color on the figures is superb, emphasized by the gloomy darkness of the cell, illuminated only by a small barred window. On the floor lie the bishop's robes and miter, along with his Holy Scriptures, their pages torn. The canvas is painted with precision and great descriptive skill, as evidenced by its excellent condition. The artist is a talented 17th-century Flemish master who paints in the style typical of Frans Franken II and is among his followers working in the city of Antwerp, a hub of talented artists. We issue a stamped and signed certificate of authenticity guaranteeing the work's period, provenance, and all its characteristics, drawn up by an antiquarian affiliated with FIMA (Italian Federation of Art Dealers). Delivery in Italy and throughout Europe within 3 days of receiving the bank transfer. Shipping is tracked and insured, and the artwork is carefully packed in shock-resistant packaging inside a custom-made wooden crate.