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Winter Landscape With Skaters And Backgammon Players. 18th-century Holland, Dated 1764



8 700 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 74

Height : 64

Description

Dutch School, dated 1764 and signed in the lower right corner (indistinctly) Oil on oak panel (two joined planks) Presented in a 17th-century Dutch period frame made of molded wood, chased and blackened Dimensions with frame: 64 x 74 cm. Panel alone: 40 x 50 cm This delicate winter scene is part of the long tradition of frozen landscapes, which have been one of the most iconic themes in Dutch painting since the 17th century. Dated 1764 and painted on an oak panel, it attests to the enduring nature of this iconographic legacy at a time when painters in the United Provinces continued to celebrate the popular pleasures of winter in a spirit that was both picturesque and anecdotal. The composition is organized around a vast frozen expanse that stretches to a horizon shrouded in a cold mist.

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The painter skillfully exploits the atmospheric effects of a pale, luminous sky, whose silvery hues reinforce the sensation of cold. In the foreground, a bare tree with twisted branches stands out vividly against the snow-covered landscape. This vertical element serves as a counterpoint to the horizontal expanse of ice and directs the viewer's gaze toward the bustling scene. The frozen surface is filled with a multitude of figures engaged in various winter activities. Skaters glide gracefully or clumsily across the ice, while strollers and groups of villagers meet and converse. The variety of poses and costumes enlivens the composition and reflects the social dimension of Dutch winters, when canals and rivers--transformed into thoroughfares--also became venues for entertainment. The most original element of the painting is located on the right, at the foot of an imposing masonry structure reminiscent of a fortified gate or an urban bastion. Near a tent pitched against the brick wall, five figures, including children, are gathered around a table where a game of trictrac--a strategy game similar to backgammon--is being played. This genre scene introduces a particularly captivating narrative dimension. The viewer witnesses not only the joys of ice skating but also indoor pastimes set in a semi-enclosed space, highlighting the festive and convivial nature of the winter season. The painter pays remarkable attention to detail: a mill and a church, a child being pushed on a sled, figures watching the game from the ramparts, a flag fluttering in the wind, and accessories arranged around the game table. These elements contribute to the authenticity of the depiction while enriching its interpretation. The color palette is dominated by soft shades of gray, beige, and pale blue, enlivened by a few brighter accents in the red and blue costumes of certain figures. This chromatic harmony, combined with meticulous and precise brushwork, is reminiscent of the works of 18th-century painters specializing in winter landscapes--direct heirs to masters such

as Hendrick Avercamp, Aert van der Neer, and Isack van Ostade. The work thus stands as a refined testament to 18th-century Dutch visual culture, in which the winter landscape remained a favored subject for evoking daily life, folk traditions, and the close relationship that the inhabitants of the United Provinces maintained with their environment. The rare and picturesque presence of backgammon players lends this composition a unique character that enhances its iconographic interest. In good condition. Sold with a certificate of authenticity