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Icon Depicting Selected Feasts From The Cycle Of The Mother Of God. Palekh, Russia, 19th Century



3 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 44

Height : 53.5

Depth : 4

Description

The icon depicting selected feasts from the cycle of the Mother of God, created by the Palekh masters in the 19th century, is a refined example of the Russian iconographic tradition with a deeply elaborate theological program. The composition is organized along a central vertical axis and depicts the major events in the earthly life of the Most Holy Mother of God, from the Annunciation to the Dormition. The central position is occupied by the scene of the "Presentation of the Most Holy Mother of God in the Temple." At the center of the composition is the three-year-old Virgin Mary, led to the Temple in Jerusalem by her parents, Saints Joachim and Anne, thus fulfilling their promise to God. She is welcomed by the high priest Zechariah, the future father of Saint John the Baptist, depicted with a

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halo as a righteous saint. Behind him are the doors of the Holy of Holies, a symbol of Mary's divine election and her exceptional role in the history of salvation. In the upper section is the scene of "The Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God," depicting the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and the announcement of the future birth of the Savior. The lower panel depicts the "Dormition of the Mother of God," which concludes the Marian cycle and expresses the fulfillment of the Virgin's earthly journey and her heavenly glorification. In the corners of these festive compositions are depicted the Four Evangelists, emphasizing the connection between these sacred events, the Tradition of the Church, and the Gospel narrative. Surrounding the central scene are several selected saints: Saint Tatiana, Saint Alexandra, Saint Anne, the Apostle Paul, Saint Catherine the Great Martyr, and Saint Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles. The predominance of female figures among the saints depicted is a remarkable feature of the iconographic program and allows this work to be considered a family devotional icon, likely linked to the spiritual protection of the female members of the family and to the idea of passing on the Orthodox faith. The work is executed in the tradition of the Palekh iconographic school, renowned for the miniature-like precision of its execution, the delicacy of its drawing, complex multi-figure compositions, and its exceptional decorative refinement. Material: Wood, levkas, tempera. Dimensions: Height: 53.5 cm. Width: 44 cm. Condition: Good condition. Slight cracking in the paint layer and natural signs of aging consistent with the period of creation and the technique used.