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Alpine Landscape With A Fortress And Travelers - Attributed To Antonio Cioci

2 500 EUR



Signature : Attribuable à Antonio Ciocio (actif dans le Piémont au XVIIIe siècle)

Period : 18th century

Condition : En l'etat

Description

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK
Period: 18th Century (Mid-18th Century)
School: Piedmontese / Alpine Landscape Painting
Technique: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 28.5 x 36.5 cm (canvas) | 39 x 47.5 cm (with frame)
Critical Presentation: A charming "cabinet" painting in oil on canvas depicting an evocative mountain landscape, attributable to the golden age of 18th-century Piedmontese landscape painting. Due to its evident compositional choices, color palette, and painterly execution, the work is closely comparable to the documented oeuvre of the painter Antonio Cioci (active in Piedmont in the 18th century), famous for his Alpine vistas and architectural backdrops with a feudal flavor.
The Subject and Composition: The scene, with its strongly picturesque character, is masterfully

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constructed through a play of light contrasts. On the right stands an imposing, ruined medieval watchtower--an architectural element typical of Alpine passes and barrier valleys (such as the Susa Valley)--which serves as a dark backdrop. In the foreground, on a shaded path, several "schematic" figures (travelers or shepherds) move about, rendered with exquisite, rapid strokes of white lead that outline their burdens and garments. In the background, the viewer's gaze is drawn toward a rugged, rocky landscape dominated by geometric, block-like mountains, bathed in a stormy, silvery light that pierces the cloudy sky. On the left, a reflection on the water suggests the presence of a lake or a stream at the bottom of the valley.

Style and Technique: The painting stands out for its extremely modern and textural "touch-based" painting style. The palette, which plays on warm earth tones, browns, and pitch-black hues, suddenly comes alive in the luminous contrasts of the background. The style reflects the influence exerted in the Piedmont region by the formal approaches of Alessandro Magnasco and Marco Ricci, guiding the Baroque landscape toward the early pre-Romantic sensibilities and the "sublime."

Condition and Frame: The work is in good overall condition, with its original patina lending the painting charm and period authenticity. There are slight signs of aging, and the paint film is stable. The painting is enhanced by a splendid antique box frame in stained wood, either contemporary or later, which perfectly highlights its warm tones and depth of perspective. A work of great character, ideal for collectors of early 18th-century art and Northern 18th-century landscape painting.