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Workshop Of Giovanni Battista Pittoni (venice, 1687-1767), *madonna Reading*



2 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 43

Height : 55

Description

Workshop of Giovanni Battista Pittoni (Venice, 1687-1767) Madonna Reading Oil on canvas, 55 x 43 cm The painting *Madonna Reading*, attributed to the workshop of Giovanni Battista Pittoni, is fully immersed in the refined cultural atmosphere of Venetian Rococo, of which Pittoni was one of the most influential figures. The work depicts the Virgin caught in a moment of intimate meditation: seated, wrapped in a large blue cloak, she holds a small prayer book in her hands, while her downcast and absorbed gaze suggests a sense of silent contemplation and gentle spirituality. The work bears a striking resemblance to numerous authentic paintings by Pittoni dedicated to the same Marian subject. In particular, a comparison with the Madonna housed at the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin reveals similarities in

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the type of face, the gentle tilt of the head, and the contemplative composition of the figure. Similar parallels can be found with the Madonna Reading, whose current location is unknown but which was published in the Federico Zeri Foundation catalog as an autograph work by the Venetian painter, as well as with the Madonna housed in a private collection in Genoa. In all these examples, the same suspended atmosphere, the same formal elegance, and a similar attention to the interplay between color and light recur--elements that suggest a close adherence to the model conceived by the master. From a historical-artistic perspective, the painting can be attributed to Pittoni's workshop, when, around the 1720s, the artist's style had already become clearly defined. Trained under the guidance of his father, Francesco Pittoni, Giovanni Battista was able to develop an independent artistic language capable of combining monumentality and grace, as demonstrated by both the large decorative cycles--including the *Martyrdom of Saint Thomas* for San Stae and the canvases of the *Tombeaux des Princes* --as well as the more intimate devotional compositions intended for private, contemplative viewing. In this Madonna Reading, the Pittoni workshop faithfully incorporates and reworks the master's stylistic vocabulary, producing an image of intense tenderness and high formal quality. The painting thus stands as significant evidence of the popularity and widespread influence of Pittoni's models, as well as of his workshop's ability to translate the unmistakable poetics of Venetian Rococo into coherent and refined works.