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From The Workshop Of Jan Thomas Van Kessel (antwerp, 1677-1741), Tavern Scene With Smokers



2 400 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 20

Height : 30

Description

Workshop of Jan Thomas van Kessel (Antwerp, 1677-1741) Tavern Scene with Smokers Oil on panel, 30 x 20 cm With frame, 36 x 26 cm The Flemish painter Jan Thomas van Kessel, born in Antwerp in 1677, was primarily known for his genre scenes, for his rural festivals, and for his depiction of lively tavern atmospheres, in which drunken villagers often come into conflict or joyfully and uninhibitedly indulge in earthly pleasures. Born into a family of artists--the Van Kessels, who were related by marriage to the famous Bruegels--he learned the basics of painting from his father, Thomas. His training then continued under the still-life painter Ykens: just like his student, Van Kessel is listed as a member of the Guild of Saint Luke in Antwerp in 1692. Following the death of his esteemed master

Dealer

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Ykens, Van Kessel continued his career independently, joining forces with his beloved cousin Ferdinand--who worked on commission for the powerful William III of Orange--to establish his own thriving workshop, where several prominent figures of the next generation were trained. Although the painter served his apprenticeship under Ykens, it was Teniers who had a decisive influence on his artistic work. In fact, he adopted from the famous Flemish artist both the subjects and the extreme lenticular quality that distinguishes the rendering of his genre scenes. Compared to history painting and religious painting, genre painting has always been considered a minor genre. Scenes of daily life, however, are an invaluable historical record that allows us to fully understand the customs of people from all social classes during a specific historical period. Among the most frequently depicted genre scenes in the 17th-century Flemish painting scene are those set inside taverns, places of gathering and recreation for both the merchant bourgeoisie and the working classes. It is usually the bourgeoisie who commission this type of painting, often characterized by the small size of the canvases. These images depict the everyday life of taverns in its most authentic form. In this small painting, created in the busy workshop of van Kessel, three patrons of a tavern sit at a table smoking pipes: the atmosphere in the tavern is smoky; this represents a departure from the style of the ideal master Teniers; the canonical lenticular technique typical of the Flemish tradition is replaced by loose, rapid brushstrokes, perfectly capable of capturing the atmosphere of the setting. Another detail in the painting that differs from Teniers' work is the rendering of the barrels, which are more squat and boxy in shape.