



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Saint Joseph With The Child, Oil On Canvas, Sevillian School, 17th Century



3 200 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Oil painting

Width : 62

Height : 72,5

Description

Dimensions with frame: 72.5 cm high x 62 cm wide. Dimensions without frame: 63.5 cm high x 51.5 cm wide. The work depicts Saint Joseph with the Infant Jesus, one of the most common representations in Josephine iconography. Saint Joseph is shown seated on a rock in an open landscape, holding the Child close to him, creating a bond between them marked by closeness and tenderness. The composition exudes a serene and intimate atmosphere, reinforced by the contemplative demeanor of the two figures and by the landscape stretching into the background. Saint Joseph is depicted as an adult man, with a bearded face and a solemn expression, dressed in an ochre-colored tunic and a dark-toned cloak--colors traditionally associated with his humble nature and his status as a laborer. At

Dealer

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his side is the flowering staff, one of his principal iconographic attributes. According to apocryphal tradition, the flowering staff was the divine sign that determined Joseph's selection as the husband of the Virgin Mary from among the other suitors, thereby becoming one of his most characteristic attributes. The Infant Jesus, placed beside Saint Joseph, holds a small cross, an element of great symbolic importance within the composition. This attribute introduces an interpretation linked to the future sacrifice of Christ and constitutes an anticipatory allusion to the Passion, lending the scene a more meditative character. The Child's expression, his gaze slightly turned upward, and Saint Joseph's posture help create a sense of contemplation that transcends the emotional bond between father and son. The open landscape stretching behind the figures, with its vegetation, mountains, and partially overcast sky, also plays a role in the composition by situating the figures within a natural setting and contributing to the depth of the scene. The contrast between the dark area in the foreground and the brighter background serves to highlight the figures of Saint Joseph and the Child as the central focus of the composition. The depiction of Saint Joseph with the Child became remarkably widespread during the 17th and 18th centuries, particularly within the context of the spirituality promoted by the Counter-Reformation, which fostered a greater appreciation of the saint as the earthly father of Christ and protector of the Holy Family. The inclusion of elements such as the flowering staff and the Child's cross allows the painting to combine in a single image devotion to Saint Joseph, the childhood of Christ, and the foreshadowing of his Passion. In this painting, the relationship between the two figures is portrayed from a particularly intimate and affectionate perspective, moving away from an exclusively solemn representation to depict Saint Joseph as a protective figure who is close to the Child. The combination of this devotional dimension with the landscape and the lighting of the scene lends the

work a serene and contemplative character.