



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Francesco Fidanza (rome, 1747-milan, 1819), Stormy Sea

4 600 EUR



Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 68

Height : 47

Description

Francesco Fidanza (Rome, 1747-Milan, 1819) Stormy Sea oil on canvas, 47 x 68 cm Based on stylistic and compositional references, the canvas under examination can be attributed to the painter Francesco Fidanza (1749-1819). Born in Rome according to some sources, and in Città di Castello according to others, Francesco Fidanza was the eldest son of Filippo and the brother of Giuseppe, both of whom were painters. Fidanza is best known for his landscapes and seascapes, which enjoyed great success both in Italy and in Paris. Toward the end of the century, he moved to the French capital, where he was strongly influenced by Vernet and Lacroix. This influence shaped the impeccable formal execution of his work, characterized by a move beyond the classical landscape toward solutions that

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foreshadowed Enlightenment and Romantic styles. There, he exhibited several landscapes at the 1801 Salon ("Snowy Scene," "Moonlight") and at the 1804 Salon ("A Snowfall," now in the Gallery of Modern Art in Milan). Upon his return to Italy, he spent the last decade of his life in Milan, gaining the patronage of Viceroy Eugène de Beauharnais--to whom he sent four small landscapes he had painted--and working for Marquis Melzi d'Eril. Beauharnais's patronage secured Fidenza a commission for views of the "principaux ports du Royaume": the viceroy's intention was to create a visual record similar to that produced by C.J. Vernet, with his series of 15 harbor views commissioned for King Louis XV of France. Fidenza did not complete the project, having painted only six views, which are now preserved in various museums in Lombardy. The painting in question depicts a splendid seascape featuring a storm and shipwreck, where the raging sea has driven the ship against the rocks, and the beach comes alive with the small figures of sailors who have escaped the fury of nature. Across the water, on the opposite shore, a city and a harbor can be glimpsed, rendered with highly refined brushwork that fades into the distance along with the background, guiding the viewer's eye toward the cloudless horizon. Fidenza's skill lies in his ability to capture sudden weather phenomena, where storm clouds and powerful waves dissolve into a serene and luminous setting; where the small figures, rendered with swift brushstrokes, are at the mercy of a majestic and impetuous nature. His atmospheres are restless, rich in contrasts of color and light, almost tactile. The work can be compared to a seascape that appeared on the Milanese antique market a few years ago, in which a similar composition is recognizable: a stormy sea in the foreground with shipwrecked survivors adrift, a lighthouse and a harbor in the background, and clouds that, after a storm, give way to a serene vista.