



18th-century Neapolitan School, Vase And Basket Of Flowers



3 400 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 29,5

Height : 22,5

Description

18th-century Neapolitan School Vase and Basket of Flowers (2) oil on canvas, 22.5 x 29.5 cm. Frame, 30 x 39 cm. This pair of paintings depicts two lavish, horizontally arranged floral compositions, conceived as pendants intended to decorate elegant aristocratic salons. Each canvas features a festive arrangement of cut flowers—including dahlias, chrysanthemums, roses, and wildflowers—resting in different containers placed on molded stone surfaces: in one case inside a woven wicker basket, in the other within an elegant metal vase in the classical style. The light gently caresses the painted surface, bringing out the vibrant colors of the white, yellow, and carmine-red corollas against a brown, shadowy background, skillfully modulated to lend depth and atmospheric breadth.

Dealer

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to the composition. The two paintings clearly belong to the 18th-century Neapolitan school of still life painting, closely reflecting the techniques and stylistic hallmarks of Francesco Lavagna and his flourishing workshop. In Naples during the height of the 18th century, flower painting definitively abandoned the descriptive rigor and austere drama of 17th-century naturalism to embrace the Rococo aesthetic, characterized by a marked decorative grace, rapid execution, and a sense of immediate freshness. Lavagna, heir to the tradition established by masters of the caliber of Gaspare Lopez and Andrea Belvedere, developed a frayed and vibrant painterly style, in which the brush traces the petals with swift, almost feathery, transforming the botanical depiction into a purely lyrical interplay of light and color. The rendering of the flowers, with their soft, "ethereal" appearance, is achieved here through a painterly application free from rigid contours, where raised highlights define the floral forms, infusing them with a natural lightness. The decision to vary the containers--alternating the rustic simplicity of the wicker basket with the refinement of the gilded vase--reflects a deliberate pursuit of compositional variety, typical of pairs of paintings created to engage in a symmetrical dialogue within the interiors of the time. Taken together, the two canvases bear witness to the extraordinary popularity of the Rococo still-life genre in Naples, where the taste for the ephemeral beauty of flowers and the elegance of decorative forms found a perfect match in the refined collecting tastes of 18th-century Neapolitan society.