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Antique Painting The Baptism Of The Eunuch Oil On Canvas XVII Century



6 500 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 200

Height : 135

Depth : 2

Description

Oil on canvas. The painting depicts an episode from the biblical book of the Acts of the Apostles, specifically the baptism administered by the deacon Philip to an Ethiopian eunuch: Philip, after receiving an invitation from an angel to go to the deserted road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza, met the Ethiopian as he was traveling in a chariot reading the prophet Isaiah; after explaining the Scriptures to him and proclaiming Jesus, he baptized him. This subject was widely depicted, especially in 17th-century Flemish art, because it was considered an iconographic and theological theme of extraordinary importance for the Reformed Church (Calvinist and Protestant in general), particularly in the United Provinces (present-day Netherlands). Moreover, the painterly style--particularly in the depiction of the

Dealer

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figures--bears a closer resemblance to Venetian painting of the same period, given how frequently the Flemish visited Venice and how the two artistic cultures influenced one another. The scene, in the Baroque style, is rich with figures that overlap and intertwine across different levels of the composition. In the center of the foreground, Deacon Philip is pouring baptismal water over the head of the kneeling Ethiopian; on either side, various figures--onlookers and children--watch with curiosity, and in the background on the left, a Black servant holds the reins of the horse pulling the Ethiopian's cart. The landscape is barely discernible--particularly the body of water in which the baptism takes place--and is chromatically uniform, with details that are scarcely distinguishable, even incorporating the Ethiopian's chariot. In contrast, the figures stand out for the vivid colors of their garments and the rosy complexions of some of them, which contrast sharply with the dark skin of the Eastern figures. The painting, still on its original canvas, shows traces of previous restorations. ARARPI0328496