



18th-century Overdoor Panel Depicting A Romantic Scene In A Park; The Panel Was Previously Enlar

1 450 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Oil painting



Description

Overdoor painting, oil on canvas, depicting a romantic scene featuring six adults and a child in a vast wooded landscape, in a composition characteristic of the rural festivals depicted in 18th-century French painting. At the center of the scene, a young woman wearing a loose-fitting light-colored dress, adorned with ribbons and flowers, sits next to a young man wearing an orange-brown coat and red breeches. He appears to be exchanging a few gallant words with her, while a young child stands beside them and several other figures take part in this elegant country gathering. In the foreground, a tambourine evokes musical entertainment, while in the background, a large ornamental vase resting on a stone pedestal adorns the garden. The landscape opens up to a distant vista, revealing a

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3 grande rue

La Chapelle-sur-Oreuse 89260

few buildings and bluish-hued hills. This composition follows the tradition of "fêtes galantes" (courtship parties) illustrated notably by Antoine Watteau, Nicolas Lancret, and Jean-Baptiste Pater in the 18th century. The subject is known from several earlier versions, including a particularly similar composition titled *A Fête Champêtre in a Park*, offered at Sotheby's in 2019 and attributed to the "circle of Nicolas Lancret" (lot 1043). These parallels attest to the widespread use of this motif in 18th-century painting. This 18th-century painting was enlarged in the past by extending the landscape on its sides, likely to adapt it to a new set of wood paneling and give it its current format as a door-surmount. Paintings integrated into the wood paneling of mansions and castles often underwent transformations as interior layouts were reconfigured. When the layout of rooms was altered or paneling was moved, these works could be preserved and adapted to new locations, particularly by enlarging their compositions. This practice, documented in several historic interiors, likely explains the transformation of our painting, whose central composition--initially of more modest dimensions--was enlarged to fit into a new architectural layout. Oil on canvas, previously re-stretched, mounted on a stretcher, presented in a later frame. A second 18th-century overdoor painting, of the same dimensions and depicting a complementary romantic scene, is also available. Both paintings can be purchased together. Dimensions: Artwork only: width 139 × height 66 cm. With frame: width 147 × height 75 cm.