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Monumental Decorative Oil Painting - Still Life With Silver And Precious Objects - Early 20th



4 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

An impressive, large-scale decorative oil painting on canvas dating from the early 20th century, depicting a sumptuous still life filled with an extraordinary abundance of silver and gilt objects, jewelry, porcelain, and natural curiosities. Originally created as an independent decorative composition integrated into the wood-paneled walls of a reception room in a private residence in Liège, Belgium, this monumental painting reflects the historicist taste for grand interior decoration inspired by earlier European artistic traditions. The composition presents a spectacular display of treasures, carefully arranged on several levels over rich, deep-green draperies embellished with gold braid and fringes. An extraordinary variety of Renaissance- and Baroque-inspired metalwork

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dominates the scene: magnificent ewers with elaborate scrolling handles, ornamental vases, cups, large presentation dishes, and richly decorated basins. Their surfaces feature mythological figures, putti, masks, fantastic creatures, and intricate foliage, all enhanced by striking contrasts of light and shadow. Among these impressive pieces are several precious caskets, including one with a domed lid and deep-blue panels reminiscent of hardstones, framed by elaborate gilt mounts. Another casket, lined in red and shown open, reveals necklaces of pearls, gold chains, and jewelry adorned with colorful gemstones. The abundance continues with blue-and-white porcelain and earthenware bowls inspired by Asian ceramics, exotic seashells, antique-style bound books, and an early wind instrument. Even the smallest details have been carefully considered, including a delicate gold ring set with a rectangular red gemstone, resting on the fabric in the foreground. This remarkable accumulation evokes the treasures of European princely collections and the celebrated *Kunstkammern*, or cabinets of curiosities, where precious works of art, exotic objects, natural specimens, and masterpieces of craftsmanship were displayed together as expressions of wealth, knowledge, and refined taste. Artistically, the painting draws inspiration from the magnificent Flemish and Dutch *pronkstilleven*, or luxury still lifes, of the 17th century. It also recalls the monumental painted displays of silver and precious objects that became fashionable in French aristocratic interiors during the early 18th century, particularly those associated with Alexandre-François Desportes. The theatrical quality of the composition is heightened by an imposing crimson damask curtain, its generous folds framing the scene and contrasting beautifully with the luminous metalwork. Rich green textiles, gold fringes, and elaborate tassels contribute to the overall sense of opulence, while the painted marble effect on the left recalls the original architectural setting and the

craftsmanship of traditional decorative painters. The painting is particularly appealing for its variety of textures and painterly effects, combining the meticulous rendering of precious objects and jewelry with broader, more expressive brushwork in the draperies and simulated marble. Provenance and restoration Originally considerably larger, this painting once formed part of the decorative wood-paneled interior of a residence in Liège, Belgium. After being removed from its original architectural setting, the canvas was rolled up for storage. The original composition extended approximately one meter farther to the left, predominantly with a painted faux-marble section, and also included additional painted areas at the top and bottom. To ensure its long-term preservation and allow it to be displayed as an independent work of art, the canvas was entrusted to a professional painting conservator. It was carefully reduced in size while preserving the principal figurative composition, then mounted on a substantial, newly constructed firwood stretcher made specifically for the painting. The conservation work included thorough cleaning, localized restoration of the paint surface, and the application of a new protective varnish. These treatments have restored the depth and brilliance of the colors, revealing the remarkable richness of the details and the luminous quality of the painted gold and silver objects. Now presented in an impressive monumental format, this decorative painting offers a striking combination of historical inspiration, extraordinary visual richness, and the craftsmanship of early 20th-century European decorative painting. An impressive statement piece, equally suited to a grand traditional interior or a more contemporary setting. Period: Early 20th century. Origin: Private residence, Liège, Belgium. Medium: Oil on canvas, professionally restored and mounted on a new custom-made firwood stretcher. Dimensions: Height: 82.7 inches (210 cm) Width: 74.8 inches (190 cm) Mickaël &

