



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Antique 18th-century Oil Painting On Canvas Depicting Saint Cecilia



2 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : l. cm 79 della tela l. cm 67

Height : h. cm 97 della tela h. cm 86

Description

The painting depicts Saint Cecilia playing the pipe organ, surrounded by angels and devout figures--an iconographic subject typical of Baroque religious art--"attributable to Italian painting schools of the 17th or 18th century, such as the Roman school or that of central Italy." Based on some research we have conducted, we date this painting to around the end of the 18th century; it most likely belongs to the Central Italian school. The composition faithfully follows the iconographic canons of late 18th-century religious painting, structured around precise visual and symbolic elements. Saint Cecilia, "in the center," is depicted seated in a three-quarter profile while playing a pipe organ. Her face and ecstatic gaze are turned upward, symbolizing the divine inspiration that guides her music. She

Dealer

Antichità di Gulino Paola

Antiquity

Mobile : 3206061208/ 3386941578

Piazza merendino 7

Capo d'Orlando 98071

wears a light blue dress cinched at the waist and a wide, draped red cloak that envelops her shoulders and legs, creating a strong chromatic contrast. In front of her, resting on her lap, is a sheet of music or a sacred book, with one hand resting on the organ's keyboard. In the background, on the left, partially hidden behind an architectural structure, two male figures emerge, dressed in classical/Roman-era clothing and wearing sandals. The main figure is identified as her husband, Saint Valerian, and the other can be identified as Tiburtius, Valerian's brother--both converted to Christianity by Cecilia herself--depicted in a posture of deep devotion, with one hand resting on his chest, in a gesture of prayer or profound spiritual emotion, caused by the saint's ecstasy and the miracle of divine music. Above, an angel with large outspread wings and billowing robes descends from a golden cloud to crown and bless the saint--a key element of martyrdom and holiness. In the lower right, a small winged cherub watches the scene from the ground, partially leaning against the base of the organ, serving as a visual link and filling the lower right section. The scene unfolds within a classical architectural setting, enriched by a dark purple drapery on the left--a typically Baroque theatrical device used to lend depth and solemnity to the composition. The lighting is distinctly directional. A mystical light emanates from the upper right and fully illuminates the saint's face and chest, leaving the figures on the left and the architectural background in partial shadow, creating a strong sense of volume and accentuating the spiritual atmosphere. The work is set within an antique, dark green lacquered molded frame that delineates its structure and highlights the three-dimensional effect of the figures. It should be noted that the work has been restored, cleaned, and re-stretched, and while the frame is antique, we do not know if it is the original or if it has been adapted.

PERIOD Late 18th century
DIMENSIONS H. 97 cm x W. 79 cm of the canvas H. 86 cm x W. 67

cmCONDITION Excellent state of preservation