



PROANTIC  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

## The Oyster Lunch



8 000 EUR

Signature : Attribué à Gérard THOMAS (1663-1721)

Period : 17th century

Condition : En l'etat

Material : Oil painting

Width : 82

Height : 67

### Description

Attributed to Gérard THOMAS (1663-1721) The Oyster Lunch Flemish School, late 17th-early 18th century This composition, attributed to Gérard Thomas, illustrates, with a touch of irony, the contrast between the pleasures of life and the demands of study. In a lively interior, an elegant gathering indulges in the pleasures of the table. They are savoring oysters, raising their glasses, and conversing cheerfully, while books and manuscripts lie abandoned, some falling to the floor. The scene thus seems to remind us that a life devoted to pleasures inevitably distances one from a life dedicated to study and knowledge. This contrast is fully evident in the room's very setting. The guests feast under the gaze of a bust of an ancient philosopher--a symbol of wisdom and reflection--whose

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presence stands in stark contrast to the carefree nature of the gathering. In the background, a man remains absorbed in his work, indifferent to the commotion around him. In the foreground, a young boy pauses his activity to turn his gaze toward the viewer, inviting them to bear witness to this human comedy. Under the guise of a familiar genre scene, this work thus offers a reflection on the allure of pleasure and the neglect of knowledge, in the moralizing tradition of Flemish painting.