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Oil On Canvas "the Dream Of Saint Joseph" 19th Century Italian School



1 850 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : cadre - 108 cm / toile - 93 cm

Height : cadre - 135 cm / toile - 120 cm

Description

Provenance Italian School, 19th century. Artist unknown. This significant religious composition belongs to the iconographic tradition of The Dream of Saint Joseph, a subject drawn from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew and widely explored in Italian religious painting. The overall conception of the scene, the pronounced chiaroscuro, and the theatrical staging attest to the persistence, in the 19th century, of models inherited from Baroque painting.

Description Large vertical oil-on-canvas painting depicting the Dream of Saint Joseph. The saint is depicted on the right side of the composition, dozing on a couch, his body wrapped in loose-fitting garments in shades of brown and ochre. His face is turned toward the heavenly apparition appearing above him. On the

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left, a winged angel descends into the scene, his brightly lit body standing out against a dark background. He wears a flowing red robe and extends his arm in a gesture that accompanies the divine message addressed to Joseph. The diagonal line created by the angel's figure greatly enlivens the composition and focuses attention on the exchange between the two main figures. On the left, deeper in the shadows, appears the Virgin Mary accompanied by the Infant Jesus. Their presence clarifies the meaning of Joseph's vision and places the episode within the context of the Incarnation. In the foreground are several carpenter's tools, traditional attributes of Saint Joseph and a direct reference to his trade as a carpenter. The deliberately somber color palette, dominated by browns, deep greens, and ochres, is punctuated by the red of the angel's garment and the illuminated skin tones. The painting is set in a wide gilded wooden frame, embellished with an inner moldings carved with a floral motif.

Technique and Materials Oil on canvas. The work is based on a pronounced chiaroscuro, with light concentrated on the main figures and a deliberately dark background. The pictorial surface features a network of old craquelure consistent with the work's age. Gilded wooden frame.

Dating 19th century. The composition draws on formal and lighting techniques developed in 17th- and 18th-century Baroque religious painting, a tradition still widely present in 19th-century Italian sacred art.

Condition Original condition visible in the photographs. The paint layer shows craquelure, isolated signs of wear, and various surface irregularities due to age. The reverse side shows the canvas mounted on an antique wooden stretcher reinforced by several crossbars. The gilded frame shows marks, scuffs, and localized wear. The photographs provide a precise assessment of the work's overall condition.

Use and Intended Setting Given its large dimensions and religious subject matter, this painting is particularly well-suited for a collection of old

master paintings, a classical interior, a historic residence, or a space dedicated to sacred art. Its vertical composition and powerful chiaroscuro give it a particularly striking presence on the wall. Dimensions frame - 135 × 108 cm canvas - 120 × 93 cm