St. Florian, Southern Germany Or Austria, 18th Century



5 400 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

Height : 95

Description

Carved, polychrome, and gilded woodHeight including the banner: 95 cm. From the head to the base: 77 cmThis elegant sculpture depicts Saint Florian, who lived during the reign of Emperor Diocletian and held high office in the imperial army stationed in the province of Noricum, where he is particularly venerated in Austria and the southern regions of Germany, where he is one of the most popular patron saints. Considered the patron saint of firefighters and the protector against fires, he is traditionally depicted as a soldier wearing the insignia of his military rank.The work depicts the saint standing in a noble and serene pose, holding in his right hand a long pole topped by a banner bearing a cross. At his side is a stylized building evoking the town or house he protects from the flames by pouring a

Dealer

Galerie FC Paris
Old masters paintings & sculptures
Mobile : +33 (0)6 26 62 14 87

78, Avenue de Suffren - Village Suisse des Antiquaires - Boutique N°39
Paris 75015

bucket of water.The sculptor has endowed him with remarkable armor inspired by late-Medieval styles: a fluted cuirass, gilded shoulder guards, articulated vambraces, greaves with overlapping plates, and protected shins. This military ensemble evokes the equipment of Germanic knights and men-at-arms of the late 15th century. The abundant hair, rendered in thick curls framing the face, as well as the elegant verticality of the silhouette, also contribute to this deliberate reference to late Gothic sculpture.Although created in the 18th century, the work is part of this historicist movement, which was particularly popular in the Habsburg and Bavarian territories, where the enduring veneration of local saints fostered the survival of models derived from the Gothic tradition. The polychromy and gilding subtly highlight the details of the armor and lend the figure a majestic presence.Thanks to the quality of its carving, the restrained expressiveness of its face, and its remarkable state of preservation--aside from a few tiny chips--this depiction of Saint Florian stands as a captivating testament to popular devotion and the taste for forms inherited from the Gothic tradition in the workshops of Central Europe during the 18th century.Sold with a certificate of authenticity