The Baptism Of Christ



3 800 EUR

Signature : Sculpteur d'Allemagne du Sud

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Painted wood

Width : 45 cm maximum

Height : 50 cm

Depth : 21 cm maximum

Description

An exceptional polychrome carved wooden group depicting the Baptism of Christ, from southern Germany, dating from the late 17th to early 18th century.This sculpture, with its rather vivid colors, is typical of German Baroque art in its theatrical composition.St. John the Baptist stands at the center of the scene, clad in a cloak and surrounded by a broad solar halo; he pours water from the Jordan River onto Christ's head using a gilded shell, while holding in his left hand a long cross adorned with a scroll bearing the inscription: "ECCE AGNUS DEI."Christ, kneeling with his hands crossed over his chest, is crowned with a radiant three-pronged crown; at his feet lies a reclining lamb.A silver dove "hovers" over the scene, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, attached at the back by a thin metal

Dealer

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rod.The scene is set on a rocky terrace representing the banks of the Jordan River; to the left is a tall clump of vegetation.The base rests on four red-painted ball-shaped feet, confirming its intended use for private devotion (a home oratory) or as a portable liturgical object.It was likely carved from linden wood, prized for its fine grain, which allows for the rendering of details such as faces, curls of hair, drapery, etc. Visible gouge marks beneath the base (approximately 30 × 15 cm) serve as a mark of authenticity and indicate the dowels used to secure the figures.Original polychromy combining soft skin tones with bolder colors for the clothing, accented with gold leaf (shell, halos, perizonium) and silver (dove).Some scattered wear to the paint; I see no restoration except for the crown of Saint John the Baptist, which was reattached using a small, more recent wooden disc held in place by a screw (see detailed photo).Even the fragile cross remains authentic--a remarkable feat, given how delicate this removable object is.Note: This generously sized sculpture is in very good condition.Feel free to contact me for more details; I can provide a video via WhatsApp.Shipping: EUR20 for mainland France. Other destinations: contact me.