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17th-century Spanish Baroque Sculpture Depicting Saint Sebastian



4 458 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Description

17th Century Spanish Baroque Saint Sebastian Sculpture in Polychrome Carved Wood, 70 cmDescription An impressive and expressive 17th-century Baroque sculpture depicting Saint Sebastian, hand-carved in wood with its original-style polychrome decoration, representing one of the most iconic subjects of European religious art.Standing 70 cm (27.6 inches) high, this remarkable devotional sculpture captures the dramatic intensity and spiritual emotion characteristic of Baroque religious imagery.The figure depicts the youthful martyr Saint Sebastian, partially nude and wearing only a traditional loincloth, bound by his wrists to a dark tree trunk and pierced by arrows.Its expressive composition, naturalistic anatomy and surviving polychromy give the sculpture a powerful

Dealer

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presence and considerable historical character.Saint Sebastian -- Martyrdom and Divine Devotion Saint Sebastian was a Roman soldier and Christian martyr traditionally associated with the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian during the late third century.According to Christian tradition, Sebastian was condemned to be tied to a tree or post and shot with arrows because of his Christian faith.Although he survived this first ordeal, the image of his body pierced by arrows became one of the most recognizable representations of martyrdom in Western Christian art.Throughout the Renaissance and Baroque periods, Saint Sebastian was frequently depicted as a youthful male figure, combining idealized anatomy with an expression of spiritual transcendence.He was also widely venerated as a protector against plague and epidemics, contributing to the popularity of his image in European churches and private devotional settings.Expressive Baroque Composition The sculpture presents Saint Sebastian in a dramatic yet restrained pose.His head is inclined upward, with his gaze directed toward heaven, suggesting spiritual contemplation and acceptance of his martyrdom.The body displays a subtle torsion, introducing movement and emphasizing the anatomical modeling of the torso.His right arm is bent and secured to the tree trunk, while the wrists remain bound above and beside the figure.Several arrows pierce the torso and leg, identifying the subject through the traditional iconography of Saint Sebastian.The contrast between the youthful figure and the dark tree trunk enhances the dramatic quality of the composition.Hand-Carved Wood and Polychromy The sculpture is carved from wood and decorated with polychromy, a traditional technique extensively employed in Spanish and European religious sculpture during the 17th century.Polychrome wooden sculpture played a particularly important role in Baroque devotional art, where naturalistic flesh tones, expressive

gestures and carefully modeled drapery were intended to evoke an emotional response from the viewer.The figure stands upon a rectangular molded base, providing architectural stability and completing the sculptural composition.The surviving painted surfaces preserve the character of the original devotional imagery, while the visible signs of age contribute to the object's historical appearance.17th-Century Religious Sculpture During the 17th century, Baroque sculptors developed an increasingly expressive approach to sacred imagery, emphasizing movement, emotional intensity and the physical reality of martyrdom.Saint Sebastian became a particularly important subject because of the artistic possibilities offered by the human figure, its dramatic pose and its spiritual symbolism.The present sculpture reflects these traditions through its upward gaze, restrained bodily movement and direct representation of the saint's suffering.Its intimate scale suggests suitability for a chapel, devotional setting or private religious collection.Condition and Historical Character The sculpture retains visible evidence of its age, including wear to the painted surfaces, losses to the polychromy, small areas of missing wood and damage or losses to the shafts of the arrows.These imperfections are consistent with the condition described for an antique devotional sculpture of considerable age.The surviving figure retains its expressive composition and decorative presence.A Collectible Baroque Religious Sculpture With its substantial height of 70 cm and powerful iconography, this Saint Sebastian is a compelling example of traditional religious woodcarving.It would be an attractive addition to a collection of Spanish Baroque sculpture, European sacred art or historic devotional objects.An evocative 17th-century polychrome wooden Saint Sebastian, distinguished by its dramatic pose, expressive features and authentic antique character. Details Subject: Saint Sebastian, Christian MartyrOrigin: Spain, attributedPeriod: 17th CenturyStyle: Baroque /

Religious SculptureMaterial: Carved Wood with PolychromyTechnique: Hand-Carved and Polychrome-Painted WoodBase: Rectangular Molded BaseIconography: Saint Sebastian Bound to a Tree and Pierced by ArrowsDimensions Height: 70 cm (27.6 in)Width: 32 cm (12.6 in)Depth: 20 cm (7.9 in)Condition Antique condition with visible age-related wear and losses.The sculpture displays wear and losses to the polychrome decoration, small areas of missing wood and damage or losses to the arrow shafts.The figure retains its expressive sculptural character and historical appearance.Please refer to the photographs for a detailed assessment of the condition.Keywords: Saint Sebastian Sculpture, San Sebastian, 17th Century Religious Sculpture, Spanish Baroque Sculpture, Polychrome Wood Saint, Antique Christian Art, Carved Wooden Saint Sebastian, Baroque Devotional Sculpture, Religious Woodcarving, Spanish Sacred Art, Antique Polychrome Sculpture, Christian Martyr Sculpture, 17th Century Wood Sculpture, Florin Antiques.