# Large 17th-century Mythological Painting, Allegory Of Love



50 000 EUR

Signature : Friedrich Christoph Steinhammer

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 168

Height : 107

Depth : 6

## Description

An important German painting from the first half of the 17th
century. This oil-on-canvas work depicts a compelling mythological
subject: an allegory of love.
The painting is by Friedrich Christoph Steinhammer, a German
artist active between 1608 and 1623, whose body of work belongs to
the refined figurative culture of Northern late Mannerism--a style
marked by clear Italian influences. The piece is accompanied by an
expert report dated February 5, 2021, from art historian Luuk Pijl, a
specialist in 16th- and 17th-century Northern European painting.

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Pijl, who has authored a publication on Steinhammer, identifies this painting as one of only about ten works that can be definitively attributed to the master, and considers it arguably his most successful achievement.
At the center of the composition, Venus is shown punishing her son Cupid, the god of love; his mischievous expression lends a playful tone to the scene. Numerous *putti* enliven the landscape with delightful, ironic vignettes, while a satyr--a symbol of sensual love and earthly instincts--appears on the left. The work can be interpreted as an allegory of the various manifestations of love and the inherent difficulty in tempering its impulses.
The figures are rendered with remarkable painterly quality, enhanced by exquisite drapery in vibrant colors. The perspective is equally magnificent, featuring monumental, classically-inspired architecture that opens onto a distant mountain landscape, complete with small villages and a lake traversed by a boat.
The painting is housed in a 20th-century gilded wooden frame with elegant ornamentation, showing some signs of age. It is a large-scale work of striking visual impact, perfectly suited for a formal setting, whether classic or contemporary in style.
The work has already undergone restoration, including relining, replacement of the stretcher, and minor retouching. Overall, it is in good condition.
Internal dimensions: H 93 x W 155 cm
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