

SA1085822

**Willem Van Bemmels
(Attributed), Italianate Capriccio
With Ruins & Travellers -
Antique Oil Painting**

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1085822****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 61 cm (24.0")

Width = 79 cm (31.1")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This mid-17th-century oil painting attributed to Dutch artist Willem Van Bemmels (1630-1708) depicts an Italianate view with prominent ruins, travellers, distant town and mountains. Born in Utrecht, Van Bemmels trained under the distinguished Herman Saftleven (1609-1685) before undertaking a grand tour culminating with an extended stay in Venice and Rome. Travelling to Italy during the mid-17th century was a complex endeavour involving a perilous journey of over 800 miles by carriage. Often funded by the artists' parents, it was extraordinarily expensive and fraught with danger. Not only were the plucky adventurers the target of various nomadic miscreants, they also had to tackle the ferocity of the Alps. Some never made it, others never returned. Van Bemmels began his tour at just 17 years old, keen to join his Dutch compatriots on their cultural sojourn. Today, one might compare these lengthy study trips to enrolling at University - whereby the learning was paramount but the activities not entirely salubrious. For those leaving home for the first time, it was the Baroque equivalent of a booze cruise. Such was the level of debauchery that the Dutch and Flemish artistic co...

Seller Details

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