

SA1141877

**Franz De Paula Ferg
(Attributed), Figures Of The
Commedia dell'Arte Performing
In A Busy Village Square -
Antique Oil Painting**

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1141877****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 37 cm (14.6")

Width = 44 cm (17.3")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This early 18th-century oil painting attributed to Austrian artist, Franz de Paula Ferg (1689-1740), depicts the Commedia dell'Arte performing in a busy Italian village square. Ferg was a distinguished painter, draughtsman and printmaker of multi-figure genre scenes and landscapes. Amid the hurly-burly of a crowded market, citizens mingle to discuss various wares. In the foreground, a woman appears to plead with another during a goat-based debate. A behatted chap in a green coat gesticulates, perhaps bartering or explaining "we might be back later". By the stage, a rider atop a white horse is delayed by the crowds, as two sprightly ne'er-do-wells extract fresh eggs from his cart. Their mother stands ahead of them, awaiting the spoils. In every direction, there's a tale unfolding. Who are these characters? What are their respective roles? Who can be trusted? From our elevated position, they appear akin to curious 'Lilliputians' obliviously conducting their everyday activities within a quaint miniature environment. We're reminded, while pondering on these intriguing questions, of the travelling actors conspicuously treading the boards on the right. The 'Commedia dell'Ar...

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