

SA1194216

Anthropomorphic Monkeys oil on Canvas

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1194216****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 70 cm (27.6")

Width = 108 cm (42.5")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Anthropomorphised monkeys in an Asian village setting. Oil on canvas. Dimensions 70cm tall x 108cm wide and 4cm deep. Label verso for the Norcross Transfer and Storage company, Charlottesville, North Carolina, USA. This humorous painting is a lively and ingeniously painted pastiche of formal Chinese landscapes. In the distance there are pagodas on rocky hills, and a willow curves elegantly into the painting from an outcrop at the right. Storks complement the scene, and at the right there is a yellow-crested cockatoo resting on a branch. The cockatoo may be a hint that the painting was not produced in China, since the bird is native to East Timor and Indonesia. Yellow cockatoos are known in Hong Kong, however, since at least the middle of the Twentieth Century, where they are the descendants of escaped pets.¹ The usual human staffage of Chinese landscapes has been replaced in this painting by monkeys dressed in human clothes. They are performing a range of humorous antics throughout the painting. Two are playing on a seesaw in the centre, while a third in a conical peasant's hat holds a precarious lantern over them, oblivious to two further monkeys craning down from...

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