

SA1197998

Michel Landois, The Stagecoach Robbery - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1197998****Date of manufacture: 1700**

Dimensions

Height = 88 cm (34.6")

Width = 107 cm (42.1")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This compelling early 18th-century oil painting by French artist Michel Landois (c.1660s-1726) depicts a stagecoach robbery by brigands. It's shown at a critical point - a moment of decision. A woman, plainly dressed, split vegetables scattered by her feet, is pleading with a brigand. All around, the bodies of fellow travellers lay robbed and brutalised. A child stands nervously behind her. What will become of them? Murder or mercy? Intriguingly, the brigand's pistol is angled away. Landois has composed this moral dilemma intelligently, with the landscape itself heightening the tension. To the right, the point of ambush; to the left, the road leading onward. The viewer stands, as it were, at the crossroads of action. With this in mind, the sense of an interruption along a route from one destination to another becomes more than just theatre. It implies that the actions of those we meet along life's narrow pathway can have implications for both our own generation and those of the next. Such staging reflects the intellectual climate of early 18th-century France, where ideas of 'action' and 'attitude' in art were closely tied to psychology. The figures are arranged in d...

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