

SA1221698

**Marmiton: Apprentice Cook
Resting, Paris c.1850,
Salon-Exhibiting Woman Artist
oil on canvas**

Price

GBP 3,000

| USD \$4,060 | EUR 3,510

Item Reference: SA1221698

Date of manufacture: 1850

Dimensions

Height = 46 cm (18.1")

Width = 38 cm (15.0")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

Before every star chef there was a marmiton—the young apprentice entrusted with the endless, thankless, unseen tasks that kept the great Parisian kitchens running. Here is a poignant genre scene by the French painter Marie Elmine Sermensan (1832-1893) depicting a young cook's apprentice resting on a Paris pavement in the early morning hours. Seated beside his basket and kitchen utensils, the marmiton - a mere boy - pauses for a moment before the day's work begins. Behind him, figures animate the street, while the first light of day catches the rooftops. The scene combines careful observation with a remarkable sense of narrative, capturing a fleeting moment. The wicker basket, with its neatly arranged kitchen utensils, forms a delightful still life in its own right, subtly reminding us that this brief moment of repose will soon give way to the demands of the kitchen. Sermensan treats her subject with sympathy and restraint. Rather than relying on anecdote or sentimentality, she focuses on the boy's thoughtful expression and relaxed posture, lending the composition an unusual psychological depth. Works by women artists of the nineteenth century have attracted increasing ...

Seller Details

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