

SA565776

18th Century Spanish Triptych
of Christ, the Madonna, St
Michael, and Saint Francis; oil
on wood

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA565776

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 33 cm (13.0")

Width = 42 cm (16.5")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This extraordinary and highly decorative triptych was produced in continental Europe (probably Spain) for private devotion in a family chapel. It opens on hinges to reveal a central panel consisting of a depiction of the Madonna surrounded by angels. Above is a panel portraying Christ holding an orb and blessing with his right hand. The left panel depicts the warrior Saint Michael the Archangel standing upon the dragon/Satan and his attribute, a pair of scales to weigh the souls of the departed. The right panel contains Saint Francis of Assisi bearing the wounds of Christ's passion, the stigmata. Both side panels contain a trompe l'oeil bas-relief of putti and a king or a pope. An elaborate family coat of arms is illustrated on the outside of the door panels. It is a highly ornate and an exquisite devotional artwork. The triptych form arises from early Christian art, and was a popular standard format for altar paintings from the Middle Ages onwards. Painted and sculptors used it. From the Gothic period onward, both in Europe and elsewhere, altarpieces in churches and cathedrals were often in triptych form. Provenance: Private collection Spain Measurements: ...

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