

SA610859

The Sleep of Endymion c.1700; Attributed to Nicolas Bertin (1668-1736)

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA610859****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 95 cm (37.4")

Width = 81 cm (31.9")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

Oil on canvas in a fine carved and gilded 17th century frame. The goddess Selene is suspended before a large moon amongst clouds and a moody sky. She gazes upon the handsome shepherd Endymion sleeping beside his father Zeus on Mount Latmus. Endymion was a legendary character in Greek mythology. The details of his compelling legend have inspired art, poetry, and literature over the centuries. And the reason we enjoy Endymion's tale is obvious - it is an unconventional love story. For in myth, Endymion was a remarkably handsome mortal man who caught the eye of a goddess. There are several subtle variations about the life of Endymion however these varying accounts are much less important than the part of the myth that matters most, which is, of course, his relationship with the goddess Selene. According to mythology, Selene, the eternally beautiful goddess of the Moon, gazed upon Endymion and fell madly in love with him. She believed him to be so beautiful that she asked Endymion's father, Zeus, to grant him eternal youth so that he would never leave her. Alternatively, Selene so loved how Endymion looked when he was asleep in the cave on Mount Latmus, near Miletus in Ca...

Seller Details

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