

SA988137

Winter Landscape with Figures on a Frozen Canal Outside Walls of a Dutch Town, Signed and Dated 1660; Thomas Heeremans (1640-1697), Oil on Panel

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA988137****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 66.5 cm (26.2")

Width = 84 cm (33.1")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

The painting depicts a lively scene from a frozen river outside the town walls, where a large crowd have gathered to skate and mingle. North-Western Europe went through a small ice age from circa 1550 until the middle of the 19th century, where two thirds of the winters in Holland between 1600 and 1700 were particularly cold with long periods of frost and snow. Fifty five percent of Holland is under sea level and as such reclaiming land was/is a constant battle. There are numerous rivers and canals and when they froze they were a popular place for all social levels to ice skate, ride a sledge, or play kolf (the popular forerunner of ice hockey). Water was supplied by a makeshift well cut into the ice, as seen in our painting, merchants would set up shops, people could eat and drink in a typically Dutch "koek-en-zopie" tent where "zopie" was served, a popular drink made of "bock", a strong German lager mixed with rum. The gathering, as seen in the painting, was a common type in the Low Countries during the seventeenth century and as such many artists were inspired to capture the rich range of images provided by them. The scene depicted is relatively restrained compar...

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