Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Set of Eleven German Comic Interior Miniatures, Circa 1650

£950

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REF: 3768

Description

A rare and highly engaging set of eleven German miniature oil-on-board paintings, dating to circa 1650 and each initialled `R.E.L.`. Rich in humour, anecdote, and domestic detail, these delightful small-scale scenes offer a vivid glimpse into the lively tradition of 17th-century Northern European genre painting.

Each panel depicts a comic interior episode, animated by expressive figures and carefully observed household surroundings. The scenes draw on the enduring appeal of everyday life-domestic mishaps, convivial gatherings, playful encounters, and moments of human folly-subjects that were especially popular in German and Dutch art of the period. Their compact scale invites close viewing, rewarding the eye with characterful gestures, theatrical expressions, and a wonderful sense of narrative.

The paintings' spirited tone reflects the wider 17th-century taste for moralising and humorous genre scenes, in which familiar interiors became a stage for amusement, social observation, and gentle satire. The artist has captured this tradition with considerable charm, using the modest dimensions of each panel to create individual episodes full of movement and personality.

Presented as a group, the eleven paintings form a particularly decorative and unusual collection. They could be displayed together in a cabinet, library, dining room, or hall, where their cumulative effect would be both scholarly and playful; equally, they may be arranged individually to bring character to a series of smaller spaces.

A fascinating survival from the German Baroque period, this rare set combines miniature-scale craftsmanship, engaging subject matter, and strong decorative appeal. The repeated `R.E.L.` initials offer an intriguing point for further research into the hand responsible for these wonderfully observed scenes.

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