

# IDYLIC LANDSCAPE WITH SHEPHERDS

Artist: Unknown Artist from a Roman School  
 Date: 17<sup>th</sup> Century  
 Dimensions: 74 x 56 cm  
 Material: Oil on canvas  
 Inventory Number: 42161

Total Cost: € 11.940,00

## STATE OF PRESERVATION:

Dated to the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this painting is not fully readable due to small drops of color and yellowing of the painted surface.

## RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Consolidation of the canvas
- Cleaning and consolidation of the pictorial surface
- Touching-up of the pictorial surface
- Photographic documentation
- Application of varnishes

Italian figurative art has always been characterized by an interest in the human figure and its relationship with the surrounding world, while the representation of nature remained of minor importance. Until the 16<sup>th</sup> century nature was represented in paintings as a decorative background. It is at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century that landscape painting as an independent genre was created in the Northern countries such as Flanders where, between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, landscape paintings appeared as popular home decorations.

In northern Europe and the German-speaking realms, the Reformation had separated much of the population from Roman Catholic culture and its religious imagery. It was here that the first great painters of landscape painting developed. In Italy, landscape painting only became an independent genre in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with the affirmation of the ideal landscape imagined by artists such as Lorrain, Annibale Carracci, Domenichino, Poussin and the pre-Romantic Salvator Rosa.

Italian landscape painting grew and developed primarily in Rome. It was there that Annibale Carracci transformed the 16<sup>th</sup> century Venetian landscape into a classically arranged humanistic landscape. It was also in Rome that the heroic and ideal landscapes of Lorraine and Poussin as well as the realistic Northern landscapes by Brill and Elsheimer developed. In the Eternal City landscape genre was Italianized by the painter Agostino Tassi and eventually "romanticized" by Salvator Rosa. This small Vatican canvas belongs stylistically to the genre of "ideal" landscapes of Annibale Carracci. The scene represents a shepherd in the foreground with his herd, while in the background, there is a view of trees, glades and rocks.



Detail of the damages on the pictorial surface.

