

18TH CENTURY FRENCH “FOUR ARTS” ALLEGORICAL PAINTINGS AFTER CARLE VAN LOO

$22,000

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Categories: Paintings

Bring the elegance and refinement of 18th century French decorative art into your interior with this exceptional suite of four antique allegorical paintings, crafted in France circa 1760. Executed in oil on canvas and presented in matching carved giltwood frames, each composition is set within an oval reserve and bordered by a warm, rich ground, creating a striking and cohesive visual presentation.

The series illustrates the Four Arts—Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, and Music—depicted through charming child figures in the Rococo taste. Each scene is animated with finely rendered details: a young artist at the easel, a sculptor at work beside classical busts, an architect presenting plans, and musicians gathered around a keyboard instrument. The compositions are lively yet balanced, with soft, luminous palettes and refined brushwork that convey both movement and delicacy.

These works are painted in the manner of Charles-André Van Loo (known as Carle Van Loo) and relate to the celebrated “Quatre Arts” series commissioned by Madame de Pompadour and exhibited at the Salon of 1753. That influential model, which introduced allegorical children in place of traditional figures, became a defining motif of mid-18th century French painting and decorative arts.

The paintings are housed in their original carved giltwood frames, decorated with beaded inner trim and ribbon-twist outer molding, and adorned with a beautifully aged gold patina that enhances the warmth and richness of the compositions.

This rare and decorative suite is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, with well-preserved surfaces and harmonious color throughout. Ideal for a salon, study, or formal living space, the set offers both historical significance and strong decorative impact.

Dimensions: 33"W x 26"H each

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