JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Roses, Delphiniums, Poppies and Other Flowers in a Classical Urn; Passionflower, Hyacinths and Primulas and Other Flowers in a Classical Urn

Sold



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JOHANN CHRISTOPH SARTORIUS1668-c.1730German School Roses, Delphiniums, Poppies and Other Flowers in a Classical UrnPassionflower, Hyacinths and Primulas and Other Flowers in a Classical Urn Oil on canvas, A pair35.3 x 25.4 cms137/8 x 10 inches
Johann Christoph Sartorius is a rare artist who is primarily known as an engraver and printing editor working in Nuremburg. His engraved work is of high quality and one example, "Neues Thier-buch, Oder: Merckwürdige Beschreibung Der Thieren und Vögeln", published by Caspar Wussin in Prague in 1718, displays this very well.

The two volume work has fifty half-page engravings in the text illustrating twenty birds and thirty animals. Each has the name of the animal or bird in Latin, German and Czech and the author goes on to describe the subject and follows it with a poem. The descriptions of the phoenix, dragon and unicorn come with the rider that their existence remains unproven. The full-page engraved frontispiece shows Adam and Eve in the Garden on Eden with various animals and is signed Johann Christoph Sartorius. Some of the engravings within the book are also signed by him, inscribed Prague and dated 1716 or 1717, so one can conclude that most, if not all, the illustrations are the work of Sartorius. Some scholars are of the opinion that he wrote the text as well.

His oil paintings are very scarce and usually take the form of small, finely observed and painted still-lifes of flowers. These tend to have soft, naturalistic colouration with neutral backgrounds and are sometimes painted on copper.

He was also commissioned to do portraits and ornamental decorations for libraries.

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