JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Still-life with chocolate service; Still-life with coffee service

ANDRE B0UYS

Sold



REF: 365303

Height: 60 cm (23.6")

London, England

+44 (0) 20 8748 1747

Width: 75.7 cm (29.8")

Framed Height: 74.3 cm (29.3")

Framed Width: 94.2 cm (37.1")

Description

André Bouys was a painter of repute who was best known as a portraitist and mezzotint engraver but also produced genre scenes and still-life works. He belonged to the group of French artists influenced by the Dutch Golden Age and excelled in depicting bourgeois motifs with serving girls engaged in domestic duties in wealthy town houses, a subject matter that was continued by such eminent painters as Jean-Baptiste Greuze (1725-1805) and Jean-Baptiste Simeon Chardin (1699-1779).

He was born in Foubes, near Hyères in the Var region of France in 1656 and it is believed that he was given some instruction by the Aix amateur painter Jean Baptiste Boyer d'Aguille. His talent gained him a place, aged only eleven, in the Paris studio of Francois de Troy (1645-1730) who was principal painter to the exiled James II of England and father and teacher of his son Jean François de Troy (1659-1752) who became one of France's leading history and portrait painters. Bouys's initial work in de Troy's studio was engraving his master's work and that of the studio but he graduated to painting in oils and displayed a remarkable ability, even at a very young age, to imitate very closely the work of his fellow pupils.

De Troy obviously held his young pupil in high regard as when the former produced a self-portrait holding a brush and palette, his young protégé made the engraving. This helped in affirming his growing reputation and on 26th April 1687 he put himself up for membership of l'Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture, which had been founded in 1648 by Louis XIV and was the premier art institution in France at that time. His application read: "Le sieur André Bouis, natif de Provence, peintre en portraits, s'est présenté pur être reçu Académicien et a fait voir de ses ouvrages à La Compagnie qui, agréant sa présentation, après avoir pris les voix par le fèves, lui a ordonné de faire, pour son ouvrage de réception, les portraits de Monsieur le Hongre, Adjoint Recteur, et Monsieur de la Fosse, Professeur, pour quoi faire il lui a été donné sis moins de temps"

His submission was well received and a few days later, on 3rd May 1687, he was accepted. He presented the completed de la Fosse portrait eighteen months later and in view of his pecuniary situation was awarded 100 livres. However the le Hongre was not ready much to the impatience of L'Académie who reminded him of the terms of his acceptance. Bouys cited the illness of the sculptor which had prevented him from completing the commission. The situation did not improve following the death of the sitter three months later and there were doubts as to whether he had even started. L'Académie members threatened him further but a further eighteen months was to elapse before the work was completed and its presentation.

Bouys exhibited nine paintings at Le Salon in 1699 and of particular interest was his portrayal of the poet Nicolas Boileau-Desspreaux which preceded that by Hyançinthe Rigaud.
He painted and engraved many influential figures of the time including musicians, fellow artists, senior...

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