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Galería de Arte

Soraya Cartategui

Dear friends,

In this month of December the gallery presents you this magnificent pastoral scene of the important Dutch landscape painter and portraitist, Jacob Gerritsz Cuyp.

Best wishes,
Soraya Cartategui



Jacob Gerritsz Cuyp

(Dordrecht 1594 - 1651)

"Pastoral landscape"

Oil on panel

97 x 116,5 cm. (38.19 x 45.87 in.)

Jacob Gerritsz Cuyp, Dutch painter specialized in portraits and landscapes, although we also find some historical paintings among his works. Known for the detailed studies he carried out on the anatomy of animals that he captured in his paintings. He came from a family of artists; son of the famous painter, Gerrit Gerritsz Cuyp who made numerous works on glass, and half brother of Benjamin Gerritsz Cuyp. His son, Aelbert Cuyp was one of the most important Dutch landscapers of the 17th century.

Pupil of the great artist Abraham Bloemaert, who had his studio in the city of Utrecht, from which he learned the technique and the use of the color palette. They emphasize the soft and harmonious tones in all their compositions. He entered the Guilda San Lucas in the city of Dordrecht in 1617, where he spent a long time also practicing as an accountant.

It stood out for its beautiful portraits, especially children, had great facility to capture the personality of its portrayed, translate in his paintings in a natural and truthful way. Cuyp liked to place his characters in pastoral environments, bucolic, immersed in beautiful landscapes.

Towards 1627 we observed that his work is very influenced by painters of the city of Utrecht, especially by Abraham Bloemaert and Hendrick ter Brugghen, something that we can find not only in his paintings, but also in his engravings, some authors affirm that he could study together to Bloemaert due to the mannerism that we find in some of his paintings.

His palette was limited in blacks, whites and grays in most of his production, although in the clothes of the characters we usually find more colorful. The effects of light also show us a caravaggista influence through the faces and how the light rests on them creating plays of light and shadow.

Towards 1630 his style is related to Claes Moeyaert and Pieter Lastman, due to the incorporation of figures to his landscapes, at this moment was when he becomes an important portraitist.

This excellent landscape made by the artist Jacob Guerritsz Cuyp frames a sweet pastoral scene, starring three little children who pose before the viewer, together with their small animals, a dog and a sheep, immersed in a beautiful bucolic landscape.

As we can see, this exceptional panel

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look that gives the impression that they were even analyzing their admirer. It is a clear psychological portrait of the characters, so characteristic of the works of this author. In addition, if we pay attention to the colorful clothes worn



by the three characters we can conclude that they would come from wealthy families, for the rich clothing with meticulous detail, like the sashes of the girls or the decorations based on flowers.



The delicacy of the jewels that shine, like the little earrings of the girl in the yellow dress, or the hat that she holds with her left hand, in which we can see each of the fibers of the straw that it contains, or well the beautiful flowers that demonstrate the great naturalism and the mastery of the author.



The three children carry an elongated toy in the form of cane with a metallic object on the tip, which was used to make soap bubbles, which we can see right below them. It is a curious fact, since the origin of soap bubbles is in the seventeenth century, when they begin to be represented in flemish paintings.

As for the animals, we know from the documentation of the time that the author was a great scholar of the anatomy of animals, which later embodied in his works. We observe a sheep in the center of the composition, which is delicately caressed by the smallest child as a sign of tenderness. It has clear human features,

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viewer while being fed, with a leaf sprig, by the oldest girl. The wool appears exquisitely painted giving volume to the whole figure of the animal. In addition, its legs show with great detail the physiognomy of the beautiful sheep.



On the left a puppy with black and white spots appears, in a playful position with the front legs stretched out, looking with a wicked face at the observer and at the same time the little ones demanding some attention. In this case gives great tenderness to the scene and also, its meaning is related to childhood.

As for the background, we see that it would be a beautiful and disturbing sunset, characterized by a cloudy sky featuring a chromatic range based on gray, with a very soft brush that rounds the contours. The horizon, appears very marked with a bright line that serves as a vanishing point to the eyes of the viewer and change background. Based on earthy tones which appear as is characteristic of the author, a small herd of grazing cows that are proof of the great mastery of the artist who dominated the physiognomy of animals.



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PROVENANCE

- Private collection, Zurich, 2011.

MUSEUMS

Existen obras de Jacob Gerritsz Cuyp en las colecciones de los principales museos de las siguientes ciudades, entre otras: There are works by Jacob Gerritsz Cuyp in the collections of the main museums of the following cities, among others: Madrid- Museo Nacional del Prado, Ámsterdam – Rijksmuseum, Dordrecht – Museo Dordrecht, Hertogenbosch (Países Bajos) – Museo Noordbrabants, Rotterdam – Museo Boijmans Van Beuningen, Jerusalem – Museo de Israel, Buenos Aires - Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Colonia – Museo Wallraf-Richartz, Montauban (Francia) – Museo Montauban, Tallinn - Kadrioru kunstimuseum.

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