



AMBROSIUS BOSSCHAERT the younger
(Arnhemuiden 1609 - 1645 Utrecht)
and
JOHANNES BOSSCHAERT
(Middelburg 1606/1608 - Dordrecht 1628)

"A Bouquet of flowers in a Wan-Li Vase
surrounded by some shells, grapes and a butterfly"
on panel: 48 x 34 cm;
signed and dated with monogram 'AB 1626' (AB linked);
collection stamp 'Mack al Sicker' on verso and
the family motto, a tower. (fam. Almack).

In collaboration with Art Gallery Voûte Schiedam & Douwes Fine Art Amsterdam



Provenance

collection stamp 'Mack al Sicker', of the Almack family; collection Julia Kraus, art dealer in Paris, inventory no. 2, cat. 1978; sale Amsterdam, Christie's, May 1998; Salomon Lilian Old Master Paintings, Amsterdam 1998-1999 & 2002 cat. p. 13; private Dutch collection; thence by descent; acquired at TEFAF 2012 by a private Belgian collection.

Literature

- Galerie J. Kraus, Paris, 'Dutch and Flemish old master paintings and drawings', 1978, no. 2.
- Sam Segal, 'Ambrosius Bosschaert the Younger' in 'Masters of Middelburg', Amsterdam 1984, exhibition catalogue by N. Bakker (et al.), pp. 66-67, ill. no. 19.

Notes: according to Fred G. Meijer in a digital remark at the RKD in The Hague (January 2016) the current picture was probably started by Johannes Bosschaert and finished and signed by Ambrosius Bosschaert II, perhaps after the death of Johannes; some of the flowers, the grapes and the high elevation of the bouquet are characteristic features of the work of Johannes Bosschaert. (RKD image no 0000190914). Dr Sam Segal has identified the various flowers.

Ambrosius Bosschaert The Elder was one of the pioneers of Dutch still-life painting. Bosschaert was born in 1573 in Antwerp. Bosschaert the Younger presumably received his artistic training from his father. It is likely that Bosschaert began his career depicting rare and exotic flowers and fruit in botanical gardens, and some of his drawings may have been made for the botanist Carolus Clusius. It is certain that Bosschaert used such drawings to compose his paintings, which often include identical flowers, sometimes rendered in reverse.

Following Antwerp's reconquest by Spanish forces in 1585 and the subsequent expulsion of all non-Catholics, the Protestant Bosschaert family moved to Middelburg in about 1589. There the artist joined the Saint Luke's Guild in 1593. "Ambrosius Bosschaert" is listed as dean of the guild but it is unclear whether these dates pertain to Bosschaert the Younger or his father.



In 1604 Bosschaert married Maria van der Ast, who came from a wealthy Middelburg family. Her younger brother, the painter Balthasar van der Ast (Dutch, 1593/1594 - 1657), lived with the couple and undoubtedly studied with his new brother-in-law.

Bosschaert had an extremely successful career in Middelburg, both as a painter and as an art dealer.

He was also an effective teacher, which ensured that his distinctive style of painting was carried on by his talented students, who included not only Van der Ast, but also the artist's sons Ambrosius IV (1609–1645), Johannes (1610–1628), and Abraham (b. 1612/1613–1643). In this painting we see two of these sons work together at a young age.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

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