

# Franz Werner von Tamm

Hamburg 1658 - 1724 Vienna

## *Flowers in a Sculpted Urn with Grapes on a Stone Ledge*

Oil on canvas

73 x 54 cm (28 3/4 by 21 1/4 in.)

Signed: Franz w v Tamm

### *Provenance:*

Private Collection, Paris

Even though Franz Werner von Tamm's fame is based on his still life paintings, he originally received his early training in Hamburg from Dietrich van Sosten and Hans Pfeifer as a painter of historical subjects. Tamm had only turned twenty when he executed an altarpiece for a church in Passau. This altarpiece is signed and dated by him indicating that he must have been a master already by then.

Around 1685, the still life artist traveled to Rome. This date is generally accepted by art historians even though no document supports this assumption. Tamm is listed as belonging to the parish Santa Maria del Popolo from 1692 until 1696. Pascoli writes that Tamm also stayed in Florence and Venice after he had left Rome. In 1701 Tamm arrived in Vienna where he entered the service of the Emperor Leopold.

Franz Werner von Tamm basically painted two types of still lives: the sumptuous bunch of flowers, occasionally enriched with a staffage, and the still life of fruit. In the latter type he was strongly influenced by the paintings of Abraham Breughel and Michelangelo da Campidoglio dating from the 1660s and 1670s. The still lives by Spadino and David de Coninck dating from the last quarter of the seventeenth century also influenced Tamm. The sumptuous floral composition derive from Mario de' Fiori and Paolo Porpora. And in fact it is the merit of Von Tamm and the Dutch painter Vogelaer that these compositions were then found to decorate the houses of the Roman collectors, from the Chigis to the Pallavicinis.

The rich bouquet of flowers in the present painting is best compared to the paintings in the Pinacoteca Vaticana, the Prado or the other two in the Galleria Pallvicini.<sup>1</sup>

Tamm's more airy flower still lives resemble those of Jean Baptiste Monnoyer and they distance themselves from those of Vogelaer who is more analytic and descriptive.

Laura Laureati

(Translation from  
the Italian by EL)

---

1) Trezzani (1989) II



cat. no. XXXXI