

Jean Baptist Bosschaert

1667 - Antwerp - 1746

Flowers in a Neoclassical Sculptured Vase with a Butterfly

Oil on canvas

64 x 76,5 cm (25 1/4 by 30 1/8 in.)

Signed: Bosschaert F

Provenance:

Alfred Brod Gallery, London
Private Collection, Germany

Jean Baptist Bosschaert was baptized on December 17th, 1667 at the Notre-Dame in Antwerp. His father Jan Baptist Bosschaert was also a painter, but he died at an early age. Jean Baptist's brothers apprenticed him to Jan Baptist de Crepu in 1685. Bosschaert stayed with his master until Crepu died in 1689. By the end of 1692 Bosschaert entered the Guild of St. Luke in Antwerp of which he remained a member until his death in 1746.

Despite Bosschaert's long lifespan, only a few signed works by him are known. Hairs assumes that many of his paintings are still hidden in private collections.¹ One also has to consider that many of his paintings might not be recognized since they are not signed, and it is documented that he was still illiterate at the age of seventeen.²

Jean Baptist Bosschaert and Gaspar Verbruggen are the prominent flower painters in Antwerp at the turn of the century. At the height of their careers the prolific artists and their workshops must have decorated nearly every home in Antwerp with garlands, swags, cartouches and bouquets of flowers. Allegorical and mythological subjects combined with still lifes were highly requested (pl.1).³



Pl.3 Jean Baptist Bosschaert, *Flora in a Park*
oil on canvas 52 x 61,5 cm

The present picture is representative of the decorative style that evolved during the early part of the eighteenth century. The composition features a neoclassical vase upon a stone ledge. The flowers are casually arranged, bending and swaying to fill the canvas and to please the eye.

- 1) Hairs (1985) p.413
- 2) Branden (1883) p.1150
- 3) Galerie Lingenauber (1989) inv.no. 1053



cat. no. XXXXII