Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Spanish Oil on Panel of the Virgen del Carmen, Circa 1820

£325

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REF: 7717

Height: 20 cm (7.9")

Width: 17 cm (6.7")

Depth: 2 cm (0.8")

Description

An evocative early 19th-century Spanish oil on panel depicting the Virgen del Carmen tenderly holding the Christ Child, encircled by a celestial gathering of cherubs. Dating to circa 1820, this intimate devotional image reflects the enduring importance of Marian worship in Spanish religious art, combining warmth of colour, expressive tenderness, and a deeply contemplative sense of faith.

The Virgin is portrayed as a compassionate and protective presence, her gracefully draped robes creating a rich frame for the Christ Child. Their close relationship forms the emotional heart of the composition, while the surrounding cherubs introduce a sense of movement, lightness, and heavenly radiance. The gentle modelling of the faces and softly atmospheric palette lend the scene a serene, almost meditative quality.

Painted on panel, the work has the tactile depth and concentrated colour so characteristic of small-scale devotional paintings of the period. Its aged surface and intimate format enhance its sense of history, inviting close viewing and rewarding attention to the subtle details of the figures, drapery, and celestial setting.

The Virgen del Carmen holds a special place in Spanish Catholic devotion, associated with maternal protection, spiritual guidance, and salvation. This subject would have made the painting particularly meaningful within a domestic setting, where images of the Virgin served as both objects of devotion and sources of comfort.

A beautiful and atmospheric example of Spanish sacred art, this painting would bring depth and character to a study, library, chapel-inspired interior, or layered gallery wall. Equally compelling above a console or mantel, it offers a quietly powerful focal point for collectors of religious art, Spanish painting, and early 19th-century devotional works.

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