

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



AN UNUSUAL OIL PAINTING OF A DWARF ATTRIBUTED TO FRANCISCUS SMUGLEVITCH  
AN UNUSUAL OIL PAINTING OF A DWARF ATTRIBUTED TO FRANCISCUS SMUGLEVITCH

*POLISH SCHOOL 1745-1807*

OIL ON PAPER, LAID ON CANVAS

SIZE: 24CMX17.5CM

## **LITERATURE**

FRANCISCUS SMUGLEVITCH (SOMETIMES SPELT SMUGLEWICZ) STUDIED IN ROME

GAINING A FIRST PRIZE AT THE ACADEMY OF SAN LUCA AND IN 1785 RETURNED  
TO POLAND TO WORK FOR KING STANILAS AUGUSTUS. IN 1800 HE WENT TO ST  
PETERSBURG TO WORK FOR THE EMPEROR PAUL.

HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE PAINTED THE PORTRAIT OF THE DWARF BAIOTTO WHICH IS  
LABELLED ON THE REVERSE 'SMUGLEWICZ-56 A WHOLE LENGTH OF BAIOTTO, THE  
DWARF AT ROME'.

DWARVES WERE A FEATURE OF SEVERAL 16TH AND 17TH CENTURY COURTS AND WERE  
OFTEN REGARDED IN THE MANNER OF HUMAN PETS. THE DUKE OF MANTUA HAD A  
SPECIAL SUITE OF SMALL ROOMS TO HOUSE HIS GROUP. PHILIP V OF SPAIN HAD  
HIS COURT PAINTER VALAZQUEZ PAINT A MAGNIFICENT SERIES OF PORTRAITS OF  
HIS FAVOURITE DWARVES.

MANY COLLECTORS OF CABINETS OF CURIOSITIES HAD A FONDNESS FOR DWARVES.  
THEY CREATED A STRIKING VISUAL ABRUPT CHANGE OF SCALE AND PROVIDED AN  
ADDED ATTRACTION TO THE GALLERY. IN MANFREDO SETTALA'S 'MUSEUM THEY  
ACTED AS GUIDES AS WELL AS BEING EXHIBITS AND WERE COUNTED AMONG THE  
MARVELS OF THE COLLECTION. A WONDROUS LINK BETWEEN THE INANIMATE  
OBJECTS AND LIFE ITSELF.