Finch & Co

SPANISH SCHOOL INSCRIBED: 'OBRAR Y CALLAR' OR 'SHUT UP AND WORK !'

SPANISH SCHOOL

INSCRIBED: 'OBRAR Y CALLAR' OR 'SHUT UP AND WORK !'

OIL ON CANVAS

18TH CENTURY

SPANISH SCHOOL

INSCRIBED: 'OBRAR Y CALLAR' OR 'SHUT UP AND WORK !'

OIL ON CANVAS

18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 37CM HIGH, 27CM WIDE - 14½ INS HIGH, 10½ WIDE

LITERATURE

CF: THIS MARVELLOUSLY EARTHY PAINTING SEEMS TO BE A CARICATURE OF AN ARTIST'S LOT IN LIFE. 'OBRAR Y CALLAR' (OR 'SHUT UP AND WORK') HANGS ON A SCROLL ABOVE THE BENT-BACKED PAINTER AS HE WALKS THROUGH THE PIT,

DODGING WHAT RAINS DOWN UPON HIM. SCATOLOGICAL SUBJECTS ARE MORE COMMON IN DUTCH AND FLEMISH PAINTINGS AND ENGRAVINGS. THE PRESENT PICTURE APPEARS TO BE SPANISH IN ORIGIN MAKING IT RATHER RARE. THOUGH THE IDENTITY OF THE ARTIST IS UNKNOWN, IT WOULD SEEM LIKELY THAT HE WAS INSPIRED BY NORTHERN ARTISTS' WORK. THE PAINTING OF MONKEYS, HELD BY THE UNFORTUNATE PAINTER SIMILARLY POINTS TO NORTHERN PRECEDENTS (DAVID TENIERS THE YOUNGER FOR EXAMPLE) WHO USUALLY POKED FUN AT HUMAN BEHAVIOUR. THE METAPHOR BEHIND THE THREE MONKEYS IS PROBABLY MEANT TO MIRROR THE ARTIST'S PREDICAMENT.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE SPANISH COLLECTION