

Joseph van Bredael



1688-1739 | FLEMISH

The Adoration of the Magi

M.S. Rau
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

Painted on copper and exhibiting an exquisite luminosity, this exceptional painting was composed by famed Flemish artist Joseph van Bredael. Entitled *The Adoration of the Magi*, van Bredael masterfully tells a timeless narrative in a single image, reinterpreting the biblical scene to be quintessentially Flemish in its presentation. Exceptionally detailed and virtuosic in its composition, the painting beckons the viewer closer to examine the fine brushwork and the expansive crowd gathering in the countryside. Building on the compositions of the famed Jan Brueghel the Elder, van Bredael forges his own path, bringing his distinctive radiant palette and deft brushwork to this work of art.

Van Bredael’s *The Adoration of the Magi* depicts the biblical moment when the Magi present their gifts to the Christ child, as described in Matthew 2:11. This composition injects new life into the time-honored tale of the three kings by placing the scene squarely in Flanders, rather than the distant lands of Bethlehem. While still centered around the illuminated figure of the infant Jesus sitting in his mother’s lap, the Magi are merely a trio of figures within the large Flemish community that gathers outside the rural barn. The distant cityscape, as well as the Magi’s richly colored and patterned robes and jewels, emphasize van Bredael’s skill as a genre painter in clearly articulating each and every detail with delicate brushwork.

A Flemish artist coming of age at the turn of the 18th century, Joseph van Bredael hails from a long line of painters. Upon moving to Paris in 1735, the

artist became a member of the Académie Royale in the court of Louis, Duke of Orléans. Primarily working in landscapes and genre scenes, the highly referential artist drew from Flemish greats like Brueghel while incorporating distinctive personal touches—slender forms, light brushstrokes and a rich palette. In fact, van Bredael’s *The Adoration of the Magi* builds on Brueghel’s masterpiece of the same popular subject, held today at the Museum Mayer van den Bergh in Antwerp, yet maintains van Bredael’s singular style.

As van Bredael signed his paintings “JB,” the same signature employed by Jan Brueghel I, many of his artworks were historically misidentified as works of the 17th-century master. Corrected attributions in recent decades have brought a burgeoning appreciation for van Bredael’s technical prowess and meticulous eye for detail. Today, he is remembered for his talent and artistry in continuing the illustrious tradition of 17th-century painting in Antwerp.





Joseph van Bredael

1688-1739 | Flemish

The Adoration of the Magi, Late 17th/early 18th century

Oil on copper

Copper: 9" high x 13 1/8" wide | 22.86 x 33.34 cm

Frame: 12 1/2" high x 16 3/4" wide x 1 1/2" deep | 31.75 x 42.55 x 3.81 cm

PROVENANCE

Private Collection

Private Collection, Geneva, Switzerland

M.S. Rau, New Orleans



DE JONCKHEERE

Tableaux de Maîtres

CERTIFICAT D'AUTHENTICITÉ

Je soussigné, Georges De Jonckheere, Expert en Tableaux Anciens, certifie que le tableau « l'Adoration des Mages », cuivre de 22,7 x 33,7 cm, est une œuvre authentique du maître Joseph van Bredael, né à Anvers en 1688 et mort à Paris en 1739.

Ce tableau, par le charme de son sujet, la gamme vive et nuancée de son coloris ainsi que sa grande finesse d'exécution, est une œuvre belle et significative de l'artiste. La récente découverte de ce cuivre de Joseph van Bredael figurant l'Adoration des Mages permet d'explorer à nouveau ce thème cher à Jan Brueghel l'Ancien. En effet, par plusieurs interprétations de la scène tirée de l'Évangile de Matthieu, ce tableau atteste de la circulation d'un modèle de Jan Brueghel l'Ancien à travers les ateliers de peintres à Anvers au XVII^e siècle. Cette composition est à ce titre très proche d'un cuivre du Museum Mayer van den Bergh, de dimensions similaires et exécuté vers 1596 par Jan Brueghel l'Ancien.

Peinte sur cuivre, cette œuvre se trouve en bon état de conservation.

Fait à Genève le 9 mars 2023,

Georges De Jonckheere

certificat

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Joseph van Bredael
A river landscape with figures both on a ferry and waiting on the shore beneath a windmill
 oil on copper
 Height 29.2 x Width 37.7 cm.
 Height 11.496 x Width 14.843 in.

30 April 2014 *almost 11 years ago*
Sotheby's London
Old Master & British Paintings – [Lot 00720]

est. 30,000 - 50,000 GBP **134,500** GBP (P)
 est. 50,650 - 84,416 USD **227,080** USD (P)
 ↑ 169% est



Joseph van Bredael
Enée et la Sibylle de Cumès aux enfers
 oil on copper, oval
 Height 31.5 x Width 31.5 cm.
 Height 12.402 x Width 12.402 in.

04 December 2009 *about 15 years ago*
Millon & Cornette de Saint Cyr
Vente Indivision Picquenard des Landes - Première Vacation – [Lot 00066]

est. 150,000 - 200,000 EUR **150,000** EUR (H)
 est. 225,937 - 301,250 USD **225,937** USD (H)



Joseph van Bredael
A river landscape with boats by a village and figures on the river bank
 oil on copper
 Height 28 x Width 37 cm.
 Height 11.024 x Width 14.567 in.

09 May 2006 *almost 19 years ago*
Sotheby's Amsterdam
Old Master Paintings – [Lot 00016]

est. 30,000 - 50,000 EUR **168,000** EUR (P)
 est. 38,248 - 63,747 USD **214,193** USD (P)
 ↑ 236% est



Joseph van Bredael
Paysage d'hiver à la trappe aux oiseaux, d'après Pieter Brueghel
 oil on copper
 Height 37 x Width 55.5 cm.
 Height 14.567 x Width 21.85 in.

09 November 2022 *over 2 years ago*
Artcurial
Baron & Baroness Vaxelaire Collection: A Family Tribute – [Lot 00006]

est. 60,000 - 80,000 EUR **170,560** EUR (H)
 est. 60,222 - 80,297 USD **171,193** USD (H)
 ↑ 113% est



Joseph van Bredael | *Village on the bank of a river*

1723

Medium: Oil on panel

Dimensions: 15^{1/8} x 22^{1/4} inches | 38.5 x 56.5 cm



RIJKS MUSEUM

Rijksmuseum
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Jan Brueghel the Elder | *The Adoration of the Magi*

Circa 1600

Medium: Oil and ink on paper, mounted on canvas

Dimensions: 25^{1/2} x 19^{5/8} inches | 20.7 x 32 cm



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