

Costermans

S i n c e 1 8 3 9



BALTHASAR VAN DER AST

(1593 - 1657)

A still life of fruit in a basket upon a stone ledge

B.vander.Ast.1623

B . v a n d e r . A s t . 1 6 2 3

7 1 x 1 0 0 c m (2 8 x 3 9 ³ / I i l

O i l o n p a n e l

C e r t i f i c a t e b y D r . F r e d M e

B a l t h a s a r v a n d e r A s t w a s b o r n i n M
t r a i n e d f r o m c . 1 6 1 0 i n t h e s t u d i o o
g u a r d i a n A m b r o s i u s B o s s c h a e r t t h e l
t a k e n o v e r t h e p o s i t i o n o f l e a d i n g p
N o r t h N e t h e r l a n d s s o o n a f t e r B o s s c h
1 6 3 0 s , v a n d e r A s t ' s d o m i c i l e U t r e c
p a i n t i n g ; b e s i d e s v a n d e r A s t , a m o n
J a c o b M a r r e l a n d B o s s c h a e r t ' s s o n s
D e l f t i n 1 6 3 2 a n d m a r r i e d t h e r e i n t h

V a n d e r A s t w a s a h i g
p a i n t i n g s w e l l e x c e e d s a 1 5 0 . T h e y
a n d p a n e l s , a l l u s u a l l y e x e c u t e d i n

originated during the first half of the period of his activity, since he rather then, a habit he gradually gave up concerned.

Floral bouquets in a vase favoured subjects, which he adopted under Ast's earliest known dated painting on Wanli porcelain dishes.⁴ All flowers, following Bosschaert's example, introduced a basket of fruit into one career, but mostly during the 1620s, also in combination with other items (figures 1 and 2, the latter from 1622 more elaborate compositions (fig. 3 panels with a rather complex 'steppe fruit' (fig. 4).⁸ These works illustrating extensively elaborating on the theme is interesting to note that he typically edge of the basket properly. As in the table to the right. The present, from the period, is rather sober in it would include some shells and one or have left them out deliberately, perhaps desired a pure fruit piece. He has dragonfly and a fly, however. Most in a basket, probably a type of watermelon Dutch paintings. We mostly encountered netted skin, or smooth. Melons in general were considered a luxury food. Balthasar van der Ast produced a most prominent melon of the same type, the Wanli porcelain bowl. That painting Museum, Utrecht (fig. 5).⁹ It is interesting similar to the one in this painting,

Although a perfectly correct Ast must have composed this painting preparative studies of individual motifs be seen together in the same season studies.

Still lifes such as this and versatility of God's creation, was Also, through the brief period before the viewer of his own transitory existence stains and blemishes. Even hard stories

at some point. Most important, however, is the illusionism with which arrangement of fruit, a basket and s

PROVENANCE

- Sale London, Christie's, 1 April 1981 (as 27 x 39 in);
- Private collection, Belgium