

*Costermans*

Since 1839



ABRAHAM GOVAERTS

(1589 - 1626)

*Falconry*

58 x 8  $\frac{9}{8}$  cm ( 22 2/8 inches )

Oil on panel

17th century

This oil painting on panel, created in the seventeenth century, depicts a forest scene bathed in soft, golden light. The composition follows the Flemish tradition of a tripartite color scheme: green in the middle ground, and blue-grey in the foreground, creating a sense of depth and majestic calm.

On the right in the foreground, a river flows through a valley, with a small boat visible. The reflections of the sky are visible in the water, adding to the poetry of the scene. In the distance, a village is glimpsed, identifiable by its roofs,

On the left, on a tree-lined path, a lady appears to be a romantic conversationalist. She is dressed in a silky royal blue elegant feathered hat. Their composition suggests they belong to the aristocracy or the

Further ahead, a group of hunters is surrounded by a pack of dogs, depicted sitting, others sniffing the ground or their perches, are rendered with detail to enhance the scene's authenticity. The whole scene is set against an idealised natural background.

The brushwork is fine and precise, and the compositions set in wooded environments. The costumes, animals — is painted with a style reminiscent of the Golden Age.