

KLAAS MULLER

FRANS SNIJDERS

Still Life with Lobster, Fruits, Artichokes and Asparagus on a table.

Frans Snyders (also "Snijders" and "Snyers") was the son of an inn-keeper. After his education at the atelier of Pieter Brueghel the Younger and Hendrick Van Balen he became member of the Antwerp Saint Luke Guild in 1602. Snyders travelled to Italy around 1608 where he spend most of his time in Milan and Rome. Around 1613 he was back in Antwerp where he married Margaretha De Vos (sister of the painters Paul and Cornelis).

Despite he was a good friend of Anthony Van Dyck, Snyders was in his painting more influenced by Rubens with whom he collaborated several times on the same works (even very shortly after his return to Antwerp, eg "Prometheus Bound", Museum of Art, Philadelphia).

Very soon Snyders became the most popular and famous still-life painter in the Southern Netherlands of the 17th century. His most famous students were Jan Roos, Paul de Vos, Jan Fijt and Peter van Boucle.

Our work can be dated around 1630, comparable works with the same elements but otherwise composed in Kopenhagen (Statensmuseum For Kunst, Inv. Sp 208), Madrid (Prado, Inv. Nr. 1757) and Brussels (for the lobster: KMSK, Inv. Nr. 4951, now on loan in the Snyders-Rockox Museum, Antwerp). Interesting changes in the composition are visible with the naked eye (eg grape branches painted over certain quinces, changement in position of the lobster plate).

Oil on panel, 78.5 x 85.5 cm (30 ⁷/₈ x 33 ⁵/₈ inches)

We are grateful to Dr. Fred Meijer for confirming our work as an authentic Frans Snijders (September 2019).



Circa: ca 1630

Literature

Hella Robels, *Frans Snyder, Stilleben- und Tiermaler 1579-1657*, Deutscher Kunstverlag, 1989