

anne•marie
monin

GIOVANNI & NICCOLO STANCHI

ROME. (1608–DOCUMENTED UNTIL 1673) (1623–ACTIVE IN 1690)

STILL LIFE WITH GRAPES, APPLES, PEACHES, LEMONS AND BIRDS



CIRCA 1640–1645

OIL ON CANVAS

DIMENSIONS :

H. 100 CM – L. 75 CM

H. 39^{3/8} IN – W. 29^{1/2} IN

27, Quai Voltaire, 75007 Paris

The Stanchi brothers, Giovanni and Niccolo, were active in Rome in the 17th century, as still life painters. If Giovanni appears, by his style, the more Flemish of the two, this aspect does not appear in the still life that we present here, which denounces a dating of the full maturity of his activity, around 1640-45. Our work presents a beautiful exercise of collaboration between Giovanni and Niccolo. Indeed, from the 1640s the two brothers worked together and it became impossible to distinguish the two hands.

Our composition, on several vertical planes, looks like a real curtain of fruits, staggered in height by means of stone entablatures, in a wonderful gradation of colors, from the coldest starting from the bottom to the warmest in a skillful balance between them. On the left, the luminous landscape background introduces an atmosphere of daylight which makes the fruits shine.

The canvas offers a real "botanical portrait" that goes right into the history of ancient grape varieties, which have probably disappeared and are now replaced by others. It reminds us that this is one of the most cultivated fruits in the world along with the apples with which it shares the space of the lush basket.

Our composition refers in particular to two other masterful compositions by the Stanchi brothers (both in private collections)¹ with which it has the same layout in common, the grapes brilliantly occupying the upper part of the canvas.

Our two artists, forgotten for centuries, benefit today from an important monographic study by Maria Silvia Proni (2005), exposing the variety of their compositions which could include characters, both in scenes and in inside garlands, vary the fruits and leisure settings, according to their sponsors. Their artistic journey takes place in the particularly rich and productive context of still life in Rome in the 17th century where Italian artists and foreign artists passing through the city.

¹ See Maria Silvia Proni, « la famiglia Stanchi », *Pittori di natura morta a Roma. Artisti italiani 1630-1750*, Viadana, 2005, p. 245-323, figs. FS. 51, FS. 52