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## Miniature: Jupiter And Callisto, After The Painting In The Philadelphia Museum Of Art

1 900 EUR



Signature : Karel Philips Spierincks (1609 - 1639) d'après

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Ivory

Width : 9,5 cm

Height : 7,8 cm

### Description

Miniature depicting Jupiter seducing Callisto as Diane.

In a brown morocco screen

Oil on ivory

Work of the end of 18th century

This miniature was executed from the painting "Jupiter and Callisto" attributed to Karel Philips Spierincks, preserved in the Philadelphia Museum of Art (1963-196). -12).

<https://www.philamuseum.org/collections/permanent/59195.html?mulR=1089883059%7C1>

Previously this painting has been attributed to Nicolas Poussin, who has strongly influenced Spierincks, a Flemish artist who worked in Rome.

The miniature resumes the scene of the painting almost identical, except for the episode of the revenge of Hera, wife of Zeus, which we see in

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the background of the painting, but do not find on the miniature.

In Greek mythology, Callisto is a nymph of great beauty. She was part of the suite of Diana (Artemis) who imposed her companions a strict chastity.

Zeus, sovereign god, fell in love with her, and, as he always does, used a trick to seduce her. He took the features of Diana to approach Calisto without arousing any suspicions and copulated with her.

A few months later, while Diane and her retinue were taking their bath, the goddess noticed Callisto's pregnancy. The goddess questioned her nymph about it, and the latter answered naively that she did not know anything about it, and that Diane was the only one to approach her. Diane got very angry and chased nymph out of her retinue.

Callisto has given birth to a son, Arcas.

Meanwhile vengeful Hera, wife of Zeus, decided also to punish her rival by transforming her into a bear, constraining the poor woman to find her refuge in the mountains.

Fifteen years later, young Arcas went hunting in the mountains, where he came face to face with Callisto. Zeus did not allow the son to kill his own mother, he ascended both of them into the sky, where they have become constellations of the Big and the Little Dipper.