

Monachorum
Sons 1756

PROFESSIONAL OPINION

DESCRIPTION:

Antoine Watteau (French, 1684-1721) *The Improbability of Love* (1703)
Oil paint on canvas
Pictured: a clearing in a wood, a man lying in the grass staring at a dancing woman.
white form in corner.
On the reverse side of the painting: eagle crest (possibly that of Frederick the Great,
King of Prussia) and three distinct number stamps.
In good condition.

PROVENANCE:

January 1745 - Feb
February 1745 -
March

DAILY SHOOT
ARRESTS:
PROPERTY OF ANYTHING
CORRESPONDENT

1756 - 12

1888 - 12

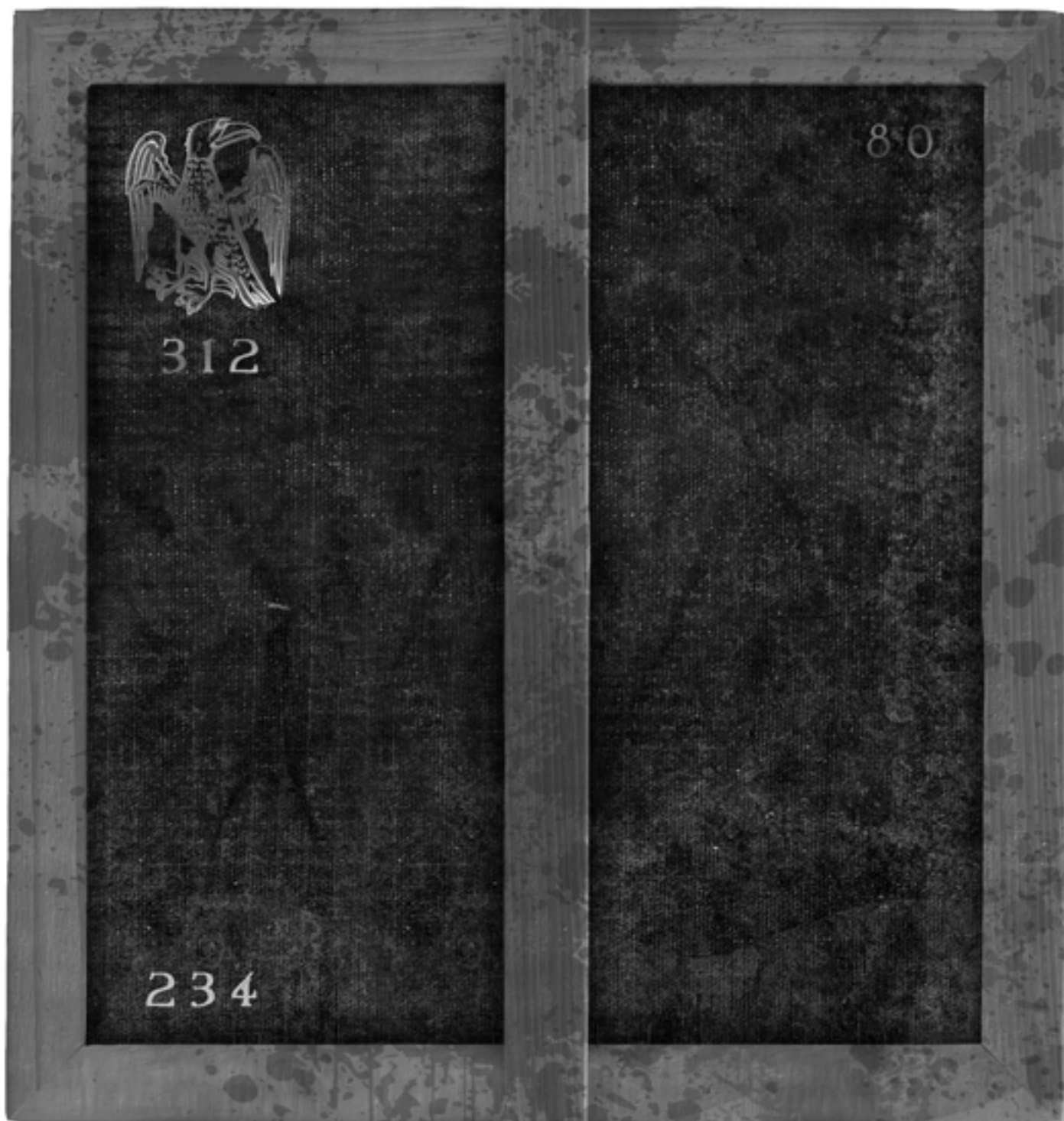
January 2016 - 10

PROFES
The Improbability of



THE IMPROBABILITY OF LOVE
ARTHUR CHURCH
Measuring only 18 inches
The little painting is
just got even more
hat right, the picture
expected to break all
great Titian or Leonardo
this picture's proven
fancied adding their
poem, great thinkers

THE IMPROBABILITY OF LOVE: REVERSE SIDE X-RAY



EAGLE CREST: INSIGNIA OF FREDERICK THE GREAT, KING OF PRUSSIA
312: ART CATALOGUING SYSTEM USED BY LOUIS XV
234: UNKNOWN
80: STAMP BELONGING TO CATHERINE THE GREAT

ARTS AND ARRESTS:

THE IMPROBABILITY OF ANYTHING

BY OUR CHIEF ARTS CORRESPONDENT
ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER

Measuring only 18 inches by 24 inches, made up of oil paint on a canvas backing, the little painting *The Improbability of Love* has an extraordinary history, which has just got even more fantastical. Due to be sold at Monachorum auction house at 8 pm last night, the picture by the eighteenth-century master Antoine Watteau had been expected to break all records. Though not as fine or as historically important as a great Titian or Leonardo, nor as fashionable or cutting edge as a Richter or a Warhol, this picture's provenance has captivated imaginations worldwide. Many collectors fancied adding their names to the illustrious roster of history's most notorious kings, queens, great thinkers and lovers who have owned this painting.



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PROVENANCE:

1721 - 1729	———	Jean de Julienne
1729 - 1745	———	Voltaire & Marquise du Châtelet, Gabrielle Émilie le Tonnelier de Breteuil
January 1745 - February 1745	———	Jean François de Saint-Lambert & Madame de Bouffleurs
February 1745 - March 1745	———	Jean Antoinette Poisson
March 1745 - 1752	———	Louis XV
1752 - ?	———	Louise O'Murphy
1755 - 1759	———	Catherine the Great
1759 - 1765	———	Francis II & Countess Wilhelmina von Neipperg
1765 - ?	———	Count Gregory Velovitch
? - ?	———	Frederick the Great
? - 1796	———	Pope Pius VI
1796 - January 1810	———	Empress Josephine
? - 1830	———	George IV
? - September 1914	———	Queen Victoria / Buckingham Palace
September 1914 - ?	———	Ethel
1929 - 1943	———	The Winkleman Family
1943 - ?	———	Adolf Hitler
1966 - January 2016	———	Ralph Bernoff, Bernoff and Son
January 2016 - July 2016	———	Annie McDee

PROFESSIONAL OPINION:

The Improbability of Love is an authentic painting from Antoine Watteau.