

RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



Still Life

Flemish School, 17th century Oil on panel, painting,

50 x 38 cm

19.6850393700787 x 19.6850393700787"

17th Century

50 x 38 cm (19⁵/₈ x 15 inches)

Flemish

Signed: Mortel fec. and old label on the reverse

Jan Mortel (Leiden 1652 - 1719)

Flemish School, 17th century

Oil on panel

In front of a park landscape with a statue of Fortuna, a variety of fruits and flowers are draped on a stone ledge in this still life by the painter Jan Mortel.

Mortel was born in Leiden in 1652 and was a pupil of Jan Porcellis van Delden. In 1675, he joined the Leiden painters' guild and in 1690 became the official painter of the Leiden Botanical Gardens. He began his career as a painter of portraits and kitchen interiors, although he is particularly known for his fruit still lifes and festoons.

His skill as a still life painter is evident throughout this work. The nuanced texture of the various fruits and flowers is finely painted, opening up a world of senses to the viewer. One can almost smell the scent of the flowers and wants to taste the freshly peeled fruits lying in a decorative Wanli Kraak bowl.