



IMPERIAL ART
Paris Beijing



Workshop of Henri BEAUBRUN (1603-1677) and Charles BEAUBRUN (1604-1692).

Portrait of Philippe of France, Duke of Anjou as a child

1642

Oil on panel

Inscription at the top : « *Le Duc d'Anjou âgé de Deux. Ans Deux mois 1642* »

Dimensions : 35 x 26,5 cm

Imperial Art

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Les Beaubrun



Martin LAMBERT (1630-1699), *Henri and Charles Beaubrun painting a portrait of the queen Marie-Thérèse.*

1675

Oil on canvas, 146 x 180 cm

Château de Versailles

Henri Beaubrun was born in Amboise in 1603. His father was a valet to the wardrobe of King Louis XIII, who introduced him to the royal family, where he was first appointed *porte-arquebuse* of the King then *valet de la garde-robe* of the King upon the death of his father. He started to train in painting with his uncle Louis Beaubrun and thanks to Louis XIII who noticed his talents as a draftsman, he was educated at the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture, of which he later became treasurer and teacher.

Charles Beaubrun was born in Amboise in 1604. His father was the King's valet and his cousin and himself followed the painting lessons given by their uncle. First a member of the Academy of Saint-Luc, he became a member of the Royal Academy on September 2, 1651. He became a tax inspector in Caen and settled with his cousin *rue des Deux Écus*. Very close, the work of the two painters is inseparable and they collaborate on all of their paintings, even giving a demonstration in front of an amused and dumbfounded Louis XIV who constantly makes them switch hands when painting a portrait. From a family that had always held office at court,

the Beaubrun were well regarded by Louis XIV, and were considered to have painted the monarch even before his birth, since they were chosen by the English ambassador to realize the portrait of Anne of Austria, while she was pregnant. A few months later, they produced the portrait of the future king, who was then eight days old. They then painted the sovereign at all ages and made portraits of the entire royal family. However, between 1640 and 1654 they did not sign any of their artworks and Georges Wildenstein indicated on this subject that "there are still works to be found".

The portrait of the « petit Monsieur »

Philippe of France, son of France, titled at birth Duke of Anjou then Duke of Orléans in 1660, born September 21, 1640, in Saint-Germain-en-Laye and died June 9, 1701, at the Château de Saint-Cloud, is a prince of the French royal family, son of Louis XIII and Anne of Austria, and younger brother of Louis XIV. Affectionately called "*le petit Monsieur*" to distinguish him from his uncle Gaston d'Orléans, brother of Louis XIII, he later took the title of "*Monsieur*" reserved under the old regime for the oldest brother of the king. Dismissed very early from the activities of leadership to stop him from developing appetites for power, he was mainly raised by his mother and the women of the Court.

French school. *Anne of Austria, regent., Louis XIV and Philippe of France, Duke of Anjou*, 17th-century

Oil on canvas, 188 x 185

Château de Versailles



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Several depictions of the child king's brother exist, but he is often accompanied by his mother Anne of Austria and his brother. Our work should also be compared to another painting representing the dauphin and his brother, now kept at the Sa Bassa Blanca museum in Majorca, which holds an important collection of child portraits. In this painting the two princes wear satin costumes, the one of Louis is embroidered in gold while the one of Philippe is covered in silver. They are both wearing a cap, yellow for the future monarch and blue for his little brother. The latter holds a white dove symbol of the Holy Spirit that Louis caresses. Both are adorned with the cord of the Order of the Holy Spirit, received by the sons of France upon their baptism. They are seated in two armchairs covered with purple velvet and gold trimmings, in front of a curtain of the same velvet and the same ornaments. In our work, Philippe de France wears exactly the same finery, which leads us to believe that the two paintings were made at the same time. In 1899, the double portrait appeared in the auction catalog of the Broadwood collection in London. It was kept in England until 1981. According to information provided by the Sa Bassa Blanca Museum, its origin could indicate that it was a work sent by Anne of Austria to the English court with a view to organize a union, as she will do later for the Spanish court. Our painting, in a smaller and more intimate format, could be a more personal object.

The precious inscription of our painting allows us to date the two works precisely, it is indicated that the child is two years and two months old, they were made around the month of November 1642. To our knowledge, therefore, it is the first known representation of "le petit Monsieur".



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Charles BEAUBRUN.

Portrait of the Dauphin Louis Dieudonné and his brother Philippe of France, Duke of Anjou.
1642

Oil on canvas, 115.5 x 95.2 cm

Musée Sa Bassa Blanca

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