

COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



Jacob Marrel

(Frankenthal c.1613 - Francfort-sur-le-Main 1681)

Still life of flowers in a vase

1641

signed and dated (lower left): J. Marell / 1641

oil on oak panel

42 x 32 cm.;

16 ½ x 12 5/8 in.

Provenance

French private collection.

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Jacob Marrel was born in 1613 or 1614 in Frankenthal, but although he was born in Germany he lived a great deal of his life in Utrecht. In 1624 he moved with his parents to Frankfurt am Main, and starting in 1627 he received instruction from Georg Flegel (1566 – 1638). From about 1630 to 1649 he resided mostly in Utrecht where he got married. He is recorded in 1636 as an apprentice and assistant of Jan Davidsz de Heem where he started excelling in flower painting. It is by 1635 that Marrel came to artistic maturity and would paint some of the best flower pieces in Utrecht.

The present work is dated 1641, which is said to be the artist's golden period of flower painting. This elegant composition is made of a bunch of flowers in a vase lying on a stone with insects. The bouquet is composed of a German Flag Iris on the top, a Red Tulip 'Semper Augustus' on the upper right side, a tulip 'Viceroy' on the left, a bunch of Auriculas on the lower right side and 4 carnations in the middle.

Although Jacob Marrel's still lifes are usually overflowing with flowers and insects, this particular composition presents a more sober and delicate appearance. Another similar but later composition is currently in the collection of the National Gallery of Denmark (Fig 1).

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Fig 1. Jacob Marrel (1613-1681) *Still Life of Flowers in a Vase*, ca. 1669.
National Gallery of Denmark (Inv. Nr KMS 767)