

# COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



Domenico Mondo  
(Capodirise 1723 - 1806 Naples)

## *Hercules and Minerva*

oil on slate

48 x 52 cm.;

18 7/8 x 20 1/2 in.

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### Provenance

Private collection, Naples.

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### Literature

N. Spinosa, *Pittura napoletana del Settecento: Dal Rococò al Classicismo*, Naples 1999, pp. 81-82.

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Born into a wealthy family near Caserta (his father was an erudite and a *giureconsulto*), Domenico Mondo is one of the most relevant and successful painters of Neapolitan Rococo. He studied under Francesco Solimena (1657 – 1747), and between 1789 and 1805 he became director of the Reale Accademia di Belle Arti in Naples, founded by King Charles VII in 1752.

The present work, unusually painted on slate, is a particularly accomplished and personal example of Mondo's painterly bravura: mastering a '*macchia*' technique that prompts comparison with the appreciated sketches by Luca Giordano (1634 – 1705) and Corrado Giaquinto (1703 – 1766).

According to Nicola Spinosa, the present painting is the pendant to another work on slate depicting a *Lamentation*.<sup>1</sup> Our painting is also catalogued in Federico Zeri's photo archive, correctly attributed to Domenico Mondo (n. 64630). A comparable work, in terms of its fresh and sketchy style, is *The Dream of Aeneas* dating to the 1760s (fig. 1).

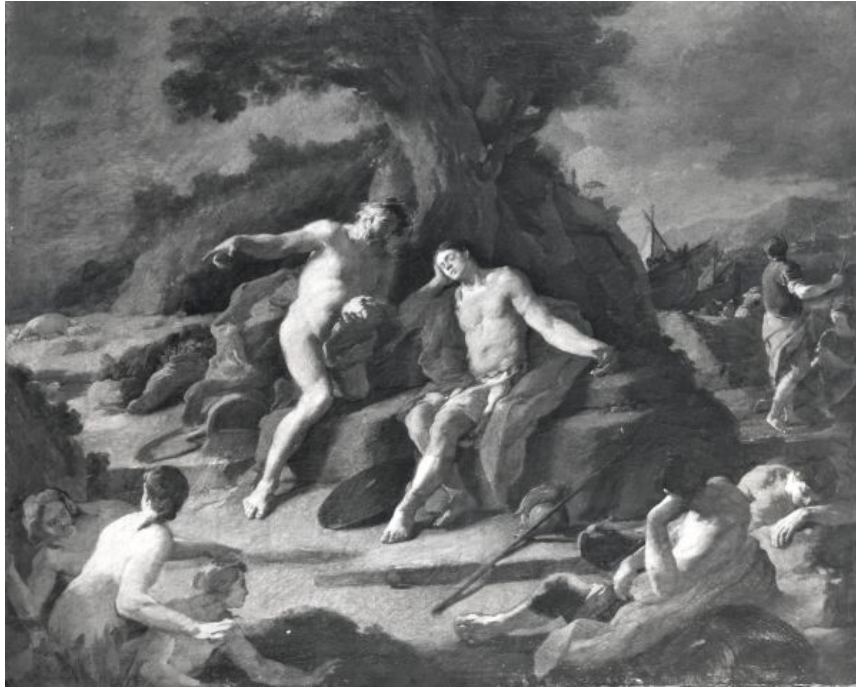
Notable frescoes by Mondo are in the Reggia of Caserta, one of the most important architectural royal residences in Europe. Furthermore, it is possible to visit Mondo's residence in his birth-town of Capodirise (near Caserta), now a dedicated museum completely frescoed by him.

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<sup>1</sup> N. Spinosa, *Pittura napoletana del Settecento: Dal Rococò al Classicismo*, Naples 1999, pp. 81-82.

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**Figure 1.** Domenico Mondo, *The Dream of Aeneas*, 1760s.  
De Giorgi Vinti Collection, Naples