

Alfred Baker

Alfred Baker Fine Arts - Painting File

Jacopo Amigone -
Diana

[ca. 1972]

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JACOPO AMIGONI

Venice mid-1680's - Madrid 1752

Diana

Grisaille, oil on canvas, 48 x 18 cms, 19 x 7 1/8 ins.

Amigoni's career was truly international. Born in Venice, he then spent twelve years at the Bavarian Court in Munich before a very significant ten year stay in England. His career was crowned by his call to Madrid to serve as First Painter to Ferdinand VI, the King of Spain. Amigoni came to London in 1729, about twenty years after Marco Ricci and Pellegrini had travelled to England in the train of the Duke of Manchester. Like them, the artist was also in the company of the Opera -- he is said to have arrived with one of the singers from the Italian Opera, and he enjoyed a lifelong friendship with the castrato Farinelli, who served with him at the dazzling and wealthy Spanish Bourbon court. An artist of great confidence and range, Amigoni had a multi-faceted career as a scene painter, fashionable portraitist and, most notable, as an immensely successful fresco painter. His work as a history painter culminated in the impressive allegorical cycle of frescos and oils painted for the ballroom at the Royal Palace at Aranjuez, which were nearly completed at the time of his death in 1752.

This painting, a work of considerable skill and subtlety underscores the delicacy and charm of Amigoni's mature style. This aspect, noteworthy even in this simplified format, made him one of the most favoured of all eighteenth century court artists. In works such as this, the gracefulness and ease of Amigoni's aesthetic seem as beguiling to the contemporary viewer as they undoubtedly were to the discerning patrons and conosciuti of times past.

The painting will be published in a forthcoming article on Amigoni by Dr. Annalisa Scarpa, in a volume of studies dedicated to Dr. Egidio Martini on his 75th birthday.



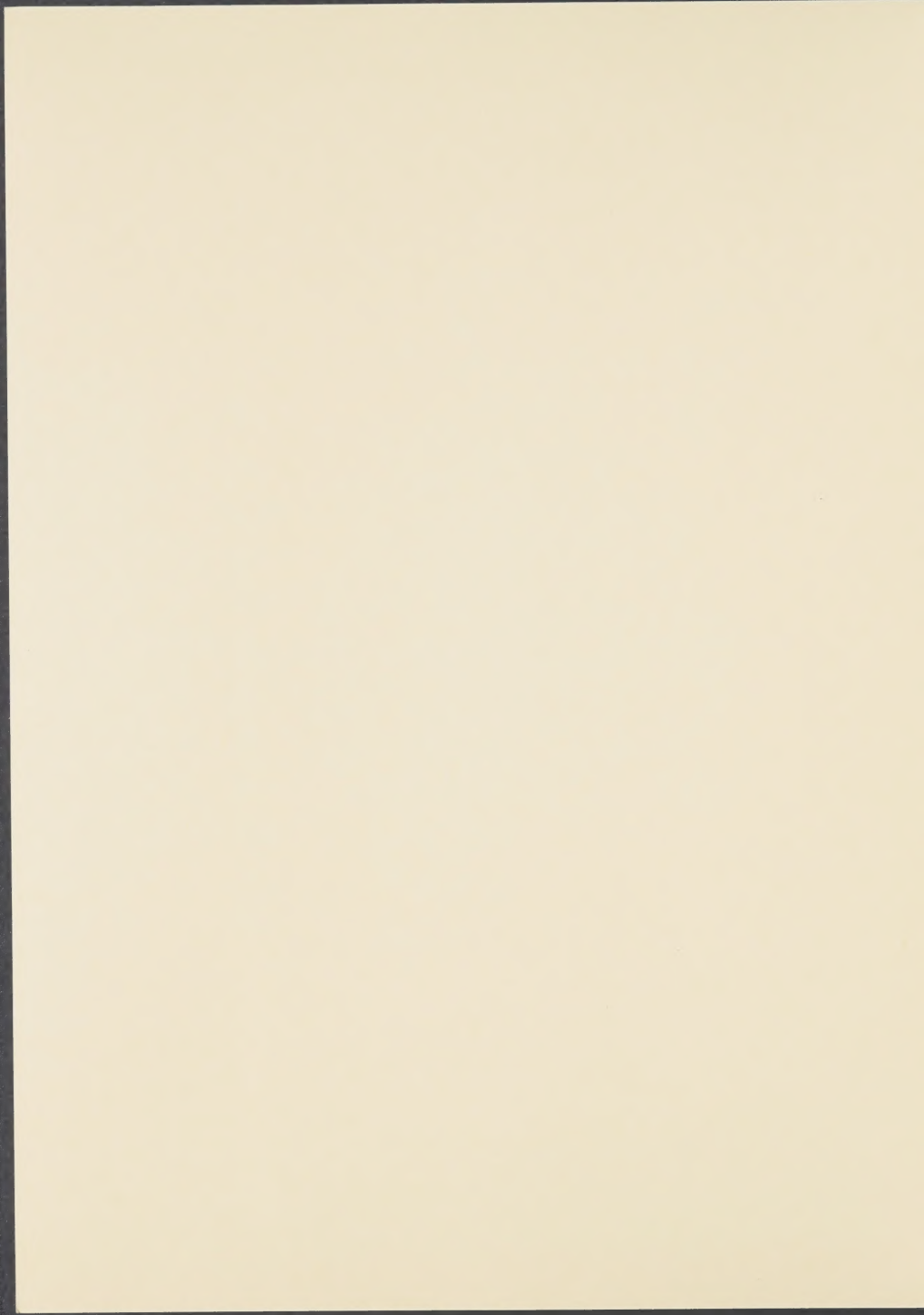
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