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A sensational and exceptionally detailed Italian 18th century Giltwood and Oil on Canvas painting of Achilles at the Court of Lycomedes, in the manner of Pompeo Batoni. This impressive painting is set within a wonderfully detailed Giltwood frame with foliate carvings at each corner and foliate reserves at the center of each side. The painting depicts the Greek hero Achilles on the Island of Skyros. Thetis, the mother of Achilles, learned from a prophecy that her son would either live a long, uneventful life or die young and gloriously in battle. Fearing for his safety, she disguised him as a girl and hid him among the daughters of King Lycomedes. Little did she know, Odysseus of Ithaca, and the cleverest man in Greece, would arrive in Skyros bearing gifts for the king's daughters. Among the jewels, clothing, and silks were hiding a sword, a shield, and a helmet. The great warrior could not resist the sword, and in drawing it from the scabbard, revealed himself. The present work highlights the moment that, in his feminine guise, Achilles draws the fateful sword.

Batoni's original work from 1745 currently resides in the collections of the Uffizi Gallery, Florence.

















