

## THE ENGAGEMENT - Florent Willems (1823 – 1905)



On the marble porch of a rich dwelling a gentleman is putting an engagement ring on his fair lady's finger as a token of their love.

Florent Willems was a Belgian painter with a passion for Flemish painting. He settled in Paris and thanks to his knowledge of ancient painting techniques he was put in charge of restoration on some of the Louvre most precious masterpieces, among them Raphael's *Saint John the Baptist*.

Lauronce faithfully adapts the painting, only changing the colours. Of the two fans featuring the subject that are known at present, one is printed in tones of brown on a white background. The other one with a grisaille print on black is probably a mourning fan.



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