

THE KISS - Hans Zatzka (1859 – 1945)



A young man hiding behind the well is kissing the pretty farm maid who is filling her pail.

The painting reproduced above was sold by an Austrian auction house as a copy after Zatzka. I still have to find the original, but the style is undoubtedly Zatzka's. The Austrian painter produced an enormous quantity of religious or gallant pictures, under various names: Hans Bernard, Joseph Bernard, Zabateri, or even Pierre Ronsard. He was not suffering from multiple personality syndrome, just trying to make a better living: for these multiple identities allowed him to sign exclusive contracts with various publishers.

'The Kiss' makes a perfect subject for a Lauronce fan.



As usual the background is simplified: on the left, the door of the farm yard and the hens have been suppressed. The other elements are faithfully copied : the well, the rose bush, the young people's attitudes and clothes, even the embroidery on the girl's petticoat. Its colour has simply been changed from bright blue to dull red to be in keeping with the warm colour of the background, a rich gold coloured satin.
