

SA103387

**SOLD....Portrait of a Young
Midshipman c.1790; Circle of
Lewis Vaslet.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA103387

Date of manufacture: 1800

Description

Oil on canvas in Georgian giltwood frame. A charming small scale portrait of a young midshipman in the Royal Navy at the end of the 18th century, probably painted for the boy's parents before he joined his ship. England was engaged in a long and bloody war with France and the navy was our first line of defence. The life of a midshipman on a man-of-war could be very short indeed. As an apprentice officer the youth was expected to be able to climb the rigging to act as a lookout, learn navigation and seamanship, command one of the ship's boats and in action he would command a group of the ship's guns, or take charge of signals or act as a messenger for the captain. A lot of responsibility and risk at a very young age, but if he lived and rose through merit he could achieve high rank. The good-looking sitter, sensitively painted, looks out at the viewer, his pensive gaze encouraging thoughts of his extreme youth and vulnerability on active service at sea, but the boy also projects an air of quiet determination and confidence. LEWIS VASLET (VASLETTE) 1742-1808. Born in York, he became a lieutenant in the 25th Regiment of Foot. Leaving the army, he travelled to Italy. He ...

Internal Ref: 8559

Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273