

SA1090025

Gustav Adolf Kuntz (After), Greetings From The World / The Nun Of Monza - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1090025****Date of manufacture: 1910**

Dimensions

Height = 76 cm (29.9")

Width = 49 cm (19.3")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This early 20th-century German oil painting depicts the 'Nun of Monza', Sister Virginia Maria, staring longingly through a cell window while in prayer. It's a fictionalised depiction based upon a true story, which shocked Italy in the 17th century. Born Marianna de Leyva (1575-1650), Sister Virginia Maria was incarcerated in a monastery by her father at the age of 13. She was due to inherit a fortune following her mother's death, but her imprisonment led to her father receiving the inheritance instead. She remained at the monastery for a decade, taking her vows and working as a teacher at the convent's school for girls. Resigning herself to a life of devotion and locked away from the world at large. However, during her time at the school, when 23, she was charmed by the charismatic Count Giovanni Paolo Osio, a controversial scoundrel who'd been accused of murder. The Count lived in a palace next door and, from his vantage point, could observe the nuns in the courtyard. An engraving by Francesco Gonin from 1840, portrays him as quite a 'character'. Intrigued by his attention, Sister Virginia Maria corresponded with him via surreptitious letters carefully lowered from a ...

Seller Details

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