

SA1097036

William John Wainwright RWS RBA, The Drunkard - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1097036****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Dimensions

Height = 94 cm (37.0")

Width = 78 cm (30.7")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This splendid late-19th-century oil painting by British artist William John Wainwright RWS RBA (1855-1931) depicts a 'drunkard', dressed in 17th-century attire, hungrily gulping down liquor. Wainwright was a celebrated painter of genre subjects, interiors, portraits, and landscapes. With his head almost horizontal, he clutches a jug and unceremoniously decants its contents. While a vivid, almost divine light, cascades through leaded windows and illuminates his pink doublet. A figure beyond smokes a pipe. Born in Birmingham, Wainwright's parents ran an eating house, probably from the front room of their home in Hockley Street. It would've been a hive of activity, frequented by regular punters from the local industries. Victorian eating houses were not usually the most salubrious of places and often reserved for men only. Plates of unspecific greasy meat, damp puddings, potatoes and fish would be served up on tarnished crockery*. Being raised in such surroundings would've given the young lad plenty of creative inspiration and it's likely he filled his sketchbooks with impromptu studies of hungry patrons. These were his formative experiences - immersed in the sights, soun...

Seller Details

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