

SA1104122

William John Wainwright RWS RBA, An Elderly Capuchin With Apron - Antique Watercolour

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1104122****Date of manufacture: 1900**

Dimensions

Height = 47 cm (18.5")

Width = 39 cm (15.4")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

This charming early 20th-century watercolour by British artist William John Wainwright RWS RBA (1855-1931) depicts an elderly capuchin monk with a fine beard and apron. Wainwright was a celebrated painter of genre subjects, interiors, portraits, and landscapes. A little weary, yet jovial and evidently undertaking some kind of monastic activity, his spirit has been immortalised via the hand of the artist. Wainwright often painted this bearded gentleman, particularly in 1902. It's likely to be a favoured model. 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,...

Seller Details

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