

SA1108364

Early 17th-Century Italian School, Portrait Of Saint John The Evangelist - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1108364****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 63 cm (24.8")

Width = 60 cm (23.6")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This beautiful early 17th-century Italian oil painting depicts Saint John the Evangelist in prayer. It's a fragment of a larger work possibly portraying either the Lamentation of Christ or the Nativity. His expression is somewhat enigmatic. John the Evangelist was one of Christ's twelve apostles and traditionally thought to be the author of the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. He's also referred to as John the Apostle. Over the centuries, he's been depicted in numerous works and generally in one of three ways. At times, particularly in Byzantine art, we see him as an elderly man with a grey beard. While in mediaeval art originating in Western Europe, he's often portrayed as youthful and whiskerless. However, here, in this piece from circa 1620, he's somewhat androgynous with a genteel visage and flowing golden locks. Historians have debated whether John's feminine appearance was a deliberate attempt to enhance his appeal with female worshippers. In this respect, it's interesting to consider Domenichino's St John the Evangelist from a similar period. How this fragment came into existence is unknown but it's plausible that its parent work became damaged and wa...

Seller Details

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