

SA1119981

Early 18th-Century Swiss School, Portrait Of A Canoness - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1119981****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 98 cm (38.6")

Width = 86 cm (33.9")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This striking, rather gothic, early 18th-century Swiss oil painting depicts a canoness wearing a three-pointed coif, cap, black dress, choker and crucifix. Dressed rather intriguingly, this remarkable lady has been particularly interesting to research as we can find no other example of her distinctive outfit. It's been suggested that she's a secular canoness hailing from Switzerland, but comparable portraits are exceptionally scarce. Her unusual headwear appears to be modelled after 17th-century 'pointed coifs', which were popular during the 1650s in the protestant Dutch Republic. However, the Dutch versions tended to feature a single point, so this is a notable alteration. She's also wearing an exquisite crucifix, possibly constructed of amber stones. For centuries, amber has been associated with spirituality due to its golden colour and natural beauty. Canonesses arrived into a life of devotion for various reasons and not all took religious vows. Secular canonesses unlike 'regular' canonesses were often from noble families and withdrew to monasteries entirely composed of aristocrats. Often, there was no compulsion for these to commit to a life devoid of worldly goods...

Seller Details

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