

SA1124260

Frederick William Davis RBA RBSA, A Lost Fortune - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1124260****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Dimensions

Height = 74 cm (29.1")

Width = 55 cm (21.7")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This late 19th-century oil painting by British artist Frederick William Davis RBA RBSA (1862-1919) depicts a seated cavalier with a carefree attitude smoking a long clay pipe. He's holding a letter in his left hand. Davis was an accomplished painter of figures and genre scenes. Here's a man who's lost it all, leaning back nonchalantly, puffing smoke into the air, with a half-filled jug of beer alongside. His wide-brimmed hat rests in the foreground, inviting us to offer a coin. What wicked news did the missive contain? Has he lost an estate during the Civil War? His meagre surroundings suggest it's true. Born in Birmingham, Davis' father was a watchmaker/jeweller, and he was raised in the Handsworth area. He trained initially at the Birmingham School of Arts before heading for Antwerp, Paris and Italy. In Paris, he worked under the eminent academic painter, William-Adolphe Bouguereau (1825-1905). Unlike Bouguereau, whose exceedingly fine portrayals carry the utmost sobriety, Davis' figures are, in contrast, often jovial and light-hearted, so it's intriguing to consider how the pair connected. One gets the impression that Bouguereau's students were encouraged to absorb ...

Seller Details

Brave Fine Art

21 Enterprise Way Arle Road Cheltenham Cotswolds GL51 8LZ
United Kingdom Under appointment only.



Tel: 01684 215986

International Tel: +44 1684 215986