

SA1142623

Mid-17th-Century Neapolitan School, Saint Jerome In Penitence - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1142623****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 54 cm (21.3")

Width = 46 cm (18.1")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This remarkable mid-17th-century oil painting, which probably originated in the Naples region of Italy, depicts Saint Jerome in penitence with a skull and sleeping lion. It's reminiscent of compositions by Spanish artist Jusepe de Ribera (1591-1652). Born in Stridon, Dalmatia, Saint Jerome (342-420) is celebrated both for his translation of the Bible into Latin, and his rigorous spiritual discipline. As a young man, he undertook a gruelling period of self-denial while living as a hermit in the Syrian desert with 'only the scorpions and the wild beasts for company'. In an effort to abandon all worldly desires, he practiced 'self-mortification' by repeatedly striking his chest with a stone and a knotted piece of rope. His story became particularly pertinent during the Counter Reformation. Here, he's shown with various symbols relating to his time in isolation, including a skull, representing the mortality of mankind, a book, as a reference to his scholarly activities, and a lion, which became a loyal companion when he removed a thorn from its paw. The index finger on his right hand is firmly planted on the skull, which is an uncommon inclusion and reminiscent of Albrecht ...

Seller Details

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