

SA1169382

Late 16th-Century Italian School, Saint Jerome The Penitent, Old Master Religious Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1169382****Date of manufacture: 16th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 35 cm (13.8")

Width = 30 cm (11.8")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

This late 16th-century Italian School oil on copper depicts Saint Jerome in penitence, contemplating Christ's crucifixion, while holding a stone to his chest, with a landscape beyond. It's based upon an engraving (c.1580) attributed to Raphaël Sadeler (1560/61-1628/32), which is after a design by Flemish painter, Maerten de Vos (1532-1603). 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 practised '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. He looks forlornly upon a crucifix....

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