

SA1178323

Louis De Silvestre, Portrait Of Baron Pierre De Gaultier, Early 18th-Century Oil Painting

Price

GBP 8,500

| USD \$11,502 | EUR 9,946

Item Reference: SA1178323

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 96 cm (37.8")

Width = 79 cm (31.1")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

This sumptuous early 18th-century portrait by leading French artist Louis de Silvestre (1675-1760) depicts Baron Pierre de Gaultier, a nobleman and diplomat active during the final years of Louis XIV and the Regency of Philippe d'Orléans. Carrying a sense of calm self-assurance, he's a man of cultivated taste. His blue justaucorps, embroidered with gold, conveys rank, while his crimson cloak, ostentatiously lined with gold fabric, rests across his left shoulder. The flesh tones are exquisitely rendered and naturalistic, while the eyes reveal a sense of his character - both alert yet tempered with genteel sentiment. Born in Geneva in 1678 to a Huguenot family, Gaultier's father was a councillor to the Great Elector of Brandenburg. As such, his early career followed a similar path before a move to Dresden around 1715. Here, Augustus the Strong was at the helm of one of Europe's most glittering courts. Rising swiftly through the ranks, he was soon appointed Court and Justice Councillor and became a Baron in 1721. Given the portrait's date of 1723, it's intriguing to consider whether the commission of this work was directly linked to his rise in status. Between 1729 and 17...

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