

SA1193497

Mid-18th-Century French School, Portrait Of A Gentleman With A Letter - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1193497****Date of manufacture: 1750**

Dimensions

Height = 97 cm (38.2")

Width = 80 cm (31.5")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This mid-18th-century French oil painting depicts a composed gentleman shown half-length against a softly graduated background, dressed in a finely cut brown coat fastened with gilt buttons over a white shirt and lace cravat. Tucked beneath his arm is a black tricorne hat edged in gold braid, while in his right hand he holds a folded letter sealed in red wax. Here, the handling is confident and refined. The flesh tones are built with subtle transitions of colour, particularly around the eyes and cheeks, giving the face a sense of inner life. The eyes themselves are especially well observed, meeting the viewer with calm intelligence. The hand, gently posed and carefully modelled, reinforces the impression of a man less accustomed to physical labour. This painting belongs to the Rococo period, a style that emerged in France during the first half of the 18th century. Rococo is often associated with elegance and intimacy - a move away from the grandeur of earlier court art. While the period is frequently represented through idealised female portraits or decorative pastoral scenes, this work reveals how Rococo sensibilities also shaped male identity. Here, refinement replaces...

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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

