

SA1199068

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

Price

GBP 2,200

| USD \$2,979 | EUR 2,574

Item Reference: SA1199068**Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 75 cm (29.5")

Width = 68 cm (26.8")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This mid-18th-century French oil painting depicts a bourgeois gentleman wearing a pale grey-blue coat with a white waistcoat and a prominent lace jabot. He's reserved, comfortable, and carries the air of a professional contributor to his social milieu. He addresses us directly, turned slightly to the left, with a sense of ease to his pose. His coat has small covered buttons while the jabot spills down the chest in crisp, rhythmical folds. There's a warmth to the cheeks and the hint of a knowing smile. The eyes are particularly well done, with careful observation of the slightly heavy lids. Here's a man who reads with intent. In France at the time, this was pre-Revolution, under Louis XV, moving into the reign of Louis XVI. It was the age of the Enlightenment - Voltaire, Diderot, Rousseau. Bourgeois self-awareness was rising and, as such, portraiture began to move away from aristocratic bravura toward something quieter. The artist is unknown, yet given the handling of the anatomy and facial features, it's by a competent, well-trained hand. It's plausible that the artist trained in Paris and was perhaps working in a regional centre, such as Lyon, Bordeaux, Rouen, Dijon...

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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

