

SA1213351

Late 18th-Century French School, Portrait Of A Gentleman - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1213351****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 65 cm (25.6")

Width = 57 cm (22.4")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This charming late 18th-century French portrait captures a gentleman at the height of fashion - an era when powdered wigs and elaborately dressed hair reached architectural proportions, and neckwear seemed to rebel against practicality. Produced around 1780, during the glittering final decades before the French Revolution, the sitter is furnished with an extraordinary coiffure together with an exuberantly tied white cravat that almost threatens to eclipse him entirely. There's something wonderfully self-aware about the portrait. The gentleman's expression is assured and faintly amused - as though fully conscious that he has achieved precisely the right balance between elegance and theatricality. His dark green coat, softly tailored and understated by comparison, acts almost as a stage curtain for the elaborate white cravat. The 1780s were the great age of sartorial ambition in France. At the court of Marie Antoinette, appearance became an art form in itself. Hair was powdered, padded, curled, and elevated into astonishing constructions, while silk, lace, and carefully arranged fabric signalled refinement, status, and taste. Portraits such as this signalled participatio...

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Seller Details

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