

SA1219420

Philippus Vilain, Portrait Of A Gentleman in Armour - Antique Oil Painting

Price

GBP 3,250

| USD \$4,398 | EUR 3,803

Item Reference: SA1219420

Date of manufacture: 1700

Dimensions

Height = 63 cm (24.8")

Width = 54 cm (21.3")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This splendid early 18th-century oil painting by Dutch artist Philippus Vilain (c.1659-1729) depicts a gentleman dressed in black armour, standing beside a plumed helmet and holding a commander's baton. As we'll discover later, the artist would've known this style of portraiture very well. It's particularly interesting that the armour, polished and gleaming, was intended as a ceremonial device, rather than directly linked to battle. The aim was to convey the sitter's integrity and standing. His lace cravat softens the severity of the steel breastplate, while the warm red ribbon tied at the elbow introduces a subtle note of colour amid the restrained palette. Particularly striking is the contrast between the dark costume and the bright reflections that travel across the armour's surface. Vilain uses these flashes of light to guide the eye through the composition, transforming the armour from a symbol of warfare into an opportunity for painterly display. Villain was a Dutch portrait painter active in Rotterdam and the southern provinces of the Dutch Republic during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The attribution is based upon the discovery of a signature during ...

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