

SA1226444

Mid 18th-Century German School, Portrait Of Dr Johann David Wechsler - Antique Oil Painting

Price

GBP 2,250

| USD \$3,045 | EUR 2,633

Item Reference: SA1226444

Date of manufacture: 1750

Dimensions

Height = 85 cm (33.5")

Width = 69 cm (27.2")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This intriguing mid 18th-century German oil painting depicts Dr Johann David Wechsler, a respected civic figure. Painted around 1760, when Wechsler was in his early 30s, it presents a man whose life was devoted to public service and the careful administration of his community. His appearance is strikingly understated. Dressed in fashionable yet restrained attire, with immaculate lace cuffs and powdered hair, he peers back at us, across the centuries. The artist has focused on conveying his composure, which suggests a man whose authority rested upon his judgement. An inscription on the reverse identifies him as the "Jur. Hospital Syndic" - the legal administrator of the Holy Spirit Hospital in Biberach. In the 18th century this was far more than a medical institution. Hospitals functioned as charitable foundations, almshouses, financial bodies and centres of civic welfare, making the position one of considerable responsibility. Wechsler would've been entrusted with overseeing legal affairs, managing property, and safeguarding an institution that cared for many of the town's most vulnerable inhabitants. It's tempting to imagine that this portrait marked an important moment...

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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

