

SA1226534

Italian School St John the Baptist as a Child

Price

GBP 4,500

| USD \$6,078 | EUR 5,263

Item Reference: SA1226534

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 48.25 cm (19.0")

Width = 38 cm (15.0")

Description

Oil on canvas Image size: 15 x 19 inches (38 x 48.25 cm) Handmade gilt pierced frame This is a beautiful early 19th Century Italian Old Master oil painting with the subject matter of Saint John the Baptist as a very young child. The tender detail in the face and the palette of soft warm tones makes this a staggeringly beautiful oil painting. This piece presents Saint John the Baptist in his traditional childhood setting: the desert. John wears a hair shirt, symbolising his ascetic life in the wilderness. As Saint Luke described it (Luke I, 80) 'And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel'. This explains that his only clothing is an animal hide. He looks at the observer with a charming smile, as if sharing his love of the lamb that symbolises Jesus Christ. The text that appears on the fabric seems to read 'Ecce Agnus Dei' (behold the lamb of God). This phrase was uttered by St. John the Baptist upon seeing Jesus for the first time as noted in John 1:29.

Seller Details

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