

SA1226943

17th/18th Century Naïve Italian/European School Oil Painting of St. Francis of Assisi – Fascinating 'Pentimento'

Price

GBP 550

| USD \$745 | EUR 644

Item Reference: SA1226943**Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 72 cm (28.3")

Width = 92 cm (36.2")

Description

A charming and highly decorative 17th/18th-century naïve provincial school religious oil painting on canvas depicting Saint Francis of Assisi in prayer. Period religious art by unnamed or provincial hands maintains a very strong market purely as decorative country house pieces, valued for their rich texture, historical soul, and atmospheric presence. Set within a dense woodland, the youthful friar is shown in a rare pastoral composition, kneeling in quiet devotion surrounded by a gathering of animals, including a loyal dog, several sheep, and birds. A particularly fascinating and visually striking feature of this painting is the prominent, dark circular silhouette visible immediately behind the saint's head. This is a historic 'pentimento' (a visible trace of earlier work showing that the artist changed their mind/ an afterthought). The distinct, geometric shape strongly resembles a large, wide-brimmed pilgrim's hat, suggesting two compelling possibilities for collectors. 1) An Iconographic Shift: The artist may have originally intended to paint Saint Rocco—the patron saint of pilgrims, who is traditionally depicted in the wilderness with a wide-brimmed hat and a loyal d...

Seller Details

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