

SA170646

SOLD.....Portrait of a Young Boy c.1750; Studio or Circle of Antoine Pesne.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA170646

Date of manufacture: 1750

Description

Oil on canvas in distressed gilt frame. This beautiful little portrait has an intimate and jewel-like quality. The aristocratic sitter, a good-looking boy of about eight wearing a military uniform, surveys the viewer with a level gaze. The eighteenth century was a period of almost constant warfare across Europe and the Prussians were frequently involved, culminating in their alliance with the British to defeat Napoleon at Waterloo. A boy of the sitter's class would almost certainly have been engaged in these conflicts, exchanging his play uniform for a real one as an officer. What his future held will never be known to us, but now, 260 years later, this beautiful little boy, proudly wearing his uniform, looks confidently into our eyes, caught in a moment of time...forever young. The frame is not the original but is of considerable age, as can be especially seen in the image of its back. It dates from around 1810. By the end of the 18th century framemakers had begun using 'composition' or 'compo', this had the benefit of being easier to work than wood and thus kept down costs. This frame is Louis XV (1710-1774) in style and therefore, stylistically, is correct for thi...

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