

SA460529

Portrait of a Gentleman, 18th Century, Italian

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA460529

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 80 cm (31.5")

Width = 64 cm (25.2")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

Oil on canvas. This captivating portrait of a gentleman abounds in drama and panache. The gentleman has been depicted in a luxurious fur trimmed crimson cloak fastened at the neck with two long braided ropes with tassels. The exquisite coat is made of brocaded silk and is decorated with floral motifs. It is further embellished with multiple rows of frogging, buttons that pass through decorative braid. This is worn over a clean white shirt with a small turnover collar. Contrary to the common cliché, natural hair and wigs were not always powdered as we see in the present example where long hair has been clubbed (or tied) at the back. The portrait is remarkable for its depiction of the attire and is a good example of the upper classes demonstrating their wealth through imagery. In this highly refined and very beautiful image the artist's commensurate skill is evident in the portrayal of the fabric. There is a virtuoso treatment and daring exploitation of resonant colors. The outstanding ability to represent texture and pattern of the clothing is utterly sumptuous and the warm rich colours create an alluring image. The work is similar to Anton Raphael Mengs when h...

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