

**SA498345**

Double portrait of two boys  
c.1740; Follower of Charles  
Jervas.

Price

**Sold**

**Item Reference: SA498345**

**Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 128 cm (50.4")

Width = 106 cm (41.7")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

## Description

Oil on canvas in period carved and giltwood frame. This charming double portrait is full of symbolism easily understood by the 18th century viewer; it depicts two brothers in the mythological land of Arcady or Arcadia. For some time it had been very fashionable, for adults as well as children, to be depicted as shepherds. The lambs are a traditional symbol of innocence and virtue, in which guise they fit perfectly into Arcadia, the land from which all guilt and sin have been banished. The dog represents loyalty and obedience, character traits considered desirable in the young. The bird represents the transience of life, and especially youth, as it can easily fly away. As guardian of the flock, the older brother holds the shepherd's crook and his arms are protectively around the younger boy. The artist is an unknown provincial; although he has been influenced by the fashionable portrait painter Charles Jervas his style has a direct, rather naive quality which has great appeal. Double portraits of children are most uncommon and this one pleases in several ways .. not least in the amusing depiction of the fluffy lambs! CHARLES JERVAS (c. 1675- 1739) was an Irish portrait...

## Seller Details

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