

SA657106

Portrait of a Gentleman with an Early Guitar c.1795; Circle of Antoine Vestier (1740–1824)

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA657106****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 105 cm (41.3")

Width = 89 cm (35.0")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This painting is possibly one of the earliest paintings to represent a six single-string guitar. This exquisitely rendered large portrait depicts a charismatic young gentleman with a guitar. His fashionable clothing speaks visually to his social status and the fine characterisation provides a sense of the sitter's amiable character. It is as if the portrait has captured a snapshot in time, whilst the young musician has broken off from playing to turn the pages of his music, and any immediately outpouring of feeling or creation of music is paused, and momentarily glance across at the sitter. The portrait is French, in style and colouring, and the fashions of the sitter. It is worth noting that France greatly excelled in the arts during the 18th century and were pre-eminent in Europe, producing some of the highest quality and most sought after works. This is a painting about young love. The title on the sheet music reads "Romance d'Amour" and it is likely a composition by the sitter written specially for his loved one – a young man in love, and perhaps practising his guitar so as to be able to serenade his loved one. The rough, thickened grey line under the first sys...

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