

SA848151

**Portrait of a Gentleman Poet
c.1760; Follower of Anton
Graff (1736-1813), oil on
canvas painting**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA848151

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 92 cm (36.2")

Width = 79.5 cm (31.3")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

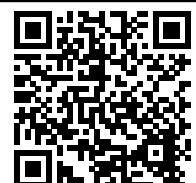
Description

It is clear that the artist of this portrait was a connoisseur of the face, employing a theatrical, spot lit effect that teases out an enhanced psychology from the sitter. With its keen characterisation and highly professional execution, this is an excellent example of late 18th-century German portraiture. The sitter is shown in swift movement, seeming to pause momentarily and glance out at the viewer - an approach suggested by the man's character, full of a sense of his own worth, energetic and self-confident. In the background on a shelf there are books by the ancient Greek poet Homer, Roman poet Virgil, and the forerunner of Germany poetry, Gellert (1715-1769), who is considered one of the great reformers of his language. These books are probably a clue as to the profession of the sitter. The portrait can be dated to the 1760s based on the attire and the hairstyle. Anton Graff was born in northern Switzerland, a pupil of Johan Ulrich Schellenberg in Winterthur. In 1746 he moved to Bavaria and eventually became assistant to the court painter in Ansbach, Leonhard Schneider, with whom he produced large numbers of copies of a portrait of Frederick the Great (presu...

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