



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Agostino Brunias (1730-1796) Attributed - Portrait Of A Black Woman With A Blue Veil



3 800 EUR

Signature : Agostino Brunias (attribué)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 23,3

Width : 16

Description

This painting, attributed to Agostino Brunias, is part of the 18th century artistic production intended to represent the colonial societies of the Antilles. It depicts a black woman draped in a blue shawl, in a posture that combines dignity and restraint. This type of representation is frequent in Brunias' work, it reflects the ambiguity of his work which mixes idealized ethnographic documentation and flattery towards the colonial elites. The choice of costume, simple but carefully represented, evokes the clothing worn by female slaves or servants of this period. The posture of the woman, holding a shawl that partially hides her face, invites a double reading. On the one hand, it illustrates modesty and restraint, qualities often idealized in colonial representations. On the other hand, this gesture

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can be seen as a form of symbolic erasure, reflecting the condition of slaves, both visible as workers and anonymous in their individuality. This tension between unveiling and concealing underlines the complexity of their representation in colonial art. Brunias, often employed by the colonists to paint a sweetened vision of Caribbean societies, sought to promote an ideal of harmonious coexistence between different social classes and ethnic groups. However, placed in the context of the Caribbean plantations, this work reveals certain contradictions: if the artist exalts here a certain humanity, even an elegance of everyday life, he also masks the violence inherent in slavery and the exploitation of black populations.