



Portrait Of A Man Holding A Skull, Flanders, Early 17th Century



2 900 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Length : 21 cm (31 cm avec le cadre)

Width : 16 cm (26 cm avec le cadre)

Description

Portrait of a Man Holding a Skull, oil on wood, dimensions 16 cm x 21 cm, with the carved and gilded wooden frame, 26 cm x 31 cm This striking portrait, with a technical refinement typical of 17th-century Flemish painting, depicts a man dressed in a dark, elegant suit, enhanced by a white shirt with a turned-down collar. His face, framed by dark hair and a neat mustache, expresses a meditative gravity. In his right hand, he holds a human skull, the central element of the composition. The skull, a classic symbol of vanitas, evokes the transience of life and the certainty of death. This motif, very common in the Baroque art of Northern Europe, invites reflection on the human condition, the vanity of earthly goods and the need to turn to spiritual values. The gesture of the figure, who seems to

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present the skull to the viewer, reinforces this philosophical dimension. The background of the painting, composed of a heavy curtain on the left and an opening onto a luminous landscape on the right, creates a contrast between the dark interior and the outside world, perhaps to emphasize the tension between the contemplative life and the ephemeral nature of the world. Although the author remains unknown, the quality of the rendering - particularly in the textures of the fabric and the delicacy of the modeling - suggests a painter trained in the artistic circles of Antwerp or Bruges, influenced by masters such as Frans Pourbus or even the early followers of Rubens.