Leandro Bassano - Portrait Of An Intellectual



11 000 EUR

Signature : Leandro Bassano (Bassano del Grappa, 1557 - Venise, 1622)?
Period : 16th century
Condition : Très bon état
Material : Oil painting
Width : 88
Height : 117

Description

Leandro Bassano (Bassano del Grappa, 1557 - Venice, 1622)
Portrait of an Intellectual
Venice, circa 1590
Oil on canvas
117 × 88 cm
Bibliography:
Attribution proposed by Professor David Dotti, 2012
This evocative portrait by Leandro Bassano presents a distinguished intellectual, seated in a richly appointed interior. The subject, clad in somber, formal attire, gazes out at the viewer with a composed and introspective expression. His dark hair and beard frame a face marked by intelligence and quiet intensity. A crisp white collar punctuates the otherwise dark tones of his

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garments.
Positioned beside a desk draped with a sumptuous red cloth, the man is captured mid-action, holding a quill in his right hand as he writes on a sheet of paper. An open manuscript or music book lies before him, hinting at his scholarly or artistic pursuits. His left hand rests calmly on the ornately carved armrest of a chair, reinforcing the composed and dignified atmosphere of the composition. In the background, shelves filled with books and a partially drawn green curtain contribute to the learned ambiance of the setting. The lighting, skillfully handled, draws focus to the sitter's face and hands--centers of expression and activity--while the remainder of the composition recedes into rich shadow, enhancing the painting's contemplative mood. The three-quarter pose, restrained palette, and pursuit of naturalistic detail are hallmarks of Leandro Bassano's portraiture.
A prominent figure in late 16th-century Venetian painting, Leandro was the son and pupil of Jacopo Bassano. He developed a personal style grounded in his father's models, yet progressively infused with a refined sensitivity and psychological insight. By the end of the Cinquecento, Leandro had emerged as one of Venice's most sought-after portraitists.
This work may be meaningfully compared with other autograph portraits by the artist, such as the Double Portrait in the Royal Collection at Hampton Court and the Portrait of Cardinal Giovanni Dolfin in the Museo Civico of Padua--both of which share the same introspective gravitas and refined execution.