Félix Auguste Bauer (1854 - 1933), The Carthusian Monk



700 EUR

Signature : Félix Auguste BAUER (Lyon, 1854 - Id., 1933)

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 27 cm

Height : 40 cm

Description

Oil on canvas. Signed lower left. 40 × 27 cm.A pupil of Jean-Paul Laurens, Albert Maignan and Joseph Bail, Félix Bauer made his debut at the Lyon Salon in 1881, then at the Salon des Artistes Français in 1888. He founded and presided over the Société Lyonnaise des Beaux-Arts. His work, marked by academic rigor and a meditative spirit, focuses on history painting, genre scenes and monastic interiors that echo the Lyonnais taste for refined genre painting, illustrated several decades earlier by the Troubadour movement. Several of his compositions are held in the museums of Lyon, Beauvais and Le Puy-en-Velay.In The Carthusian Monk, Bauer portrays a solitary monk absorbed in the reading of a large folio. The standing figure, caught in an oblique light, is set against a plain brown background that

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emphasizes the verticality of the body and the purity of the gesture. The white robe, contrasted by the dark band of the habit, is modeled in a restrained chiaroscuro expressing the monk's silent concentration. The matte texture of the fabrics, the precision of the drawing and the muted palette create an atmosphere of calm and gentleness.Beyond this solemnity, the monk turns his gaze toward the painter, a faint smile on his lips, as if caught in a brief moment of relaxation within the silence of the cloister. This subtle inflection of the face introduces a rare human vibration into academic religious painting. Bauer no longer depicts devotion itself, but a moment of humanity suspended between contemplation and complicity. The simplicity of the setting, the diffused warmth of the light and the harmony of tones enhance the spiritual and emotional depth of this intimate encounter.