



Parisian School (c. 1780) - Portrait Of A Grand Lady In An Extravagant Hairstyle



2 900 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Oil on canvas. Original canvas. On the back, the sitter is identified as Madame Eloÿ le Bailly. This French portrait, dated around 1780, offers a striking glimpse into the refinement and often exuberant elegance of the late Rococo period, a time of splendor preceding the austerity of the Revolution. The lady, captured in a pose of refined grace, embodies the aristocratic taste of the era, when clothing and, above all, hairstyles reached new heights of hair architecture. The most striking and defining feature of the work is undoubtedly the extravagance of the hairstyle. The sitter's hair rises in a monumental and vertiginous structure, defying gravity with a mixture of natural hair, wigs, and hairpieces. It is not simply a hairstyle, but a veritable Baroque sculpture, executed with astonishing

Dealer

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meticulousness. Exotic feathers, silk ribbons, pearls, and sometimes even small models or figurines were incorporated into these creations, transforming the head into a veritable portable theater. This portrait testifies not only to an ephemeral fashion, but also glorifies the skill of hairdressers and the audacity of the ladies of the French court, whose hair, like a living crown, was a visible symbol of status, wealth, and ultimately, the aesthetic exuberance that characterized the twilight of the Ancien Régime. - Image dimensions without frame: 71 x 83 cm / 93 x 107 cm with a magnificent late 19th-century frame