



Portrait Of Henry IV (1553-1670), King Of France, Pastel, Late 18th Century



1 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Pastel

Length : 49

Height : 59

Description

This pastel portrait captures the most iconic image of the "Vert-Galant" towards the end of his reign. It depicts the monarch in a three-quarter bust view. The King is shown here in full maturity: his graying hair and beard, high forehead, and gaze filled with serene humanity illustrate the wisdom of a peacemaking sovereign following the turmoil of the Wars of Religion. The meticulous detail of the costume underscores his high rank. Henry IV wears a somber, understated doublet, contrasting with the brilliant white of a large starched ruff--a court accessory then at its height. The composition is enhanced by the ribbon of the Order of the Holy Spirit, the famous "Cordon bleu," crossing his chest and supporting the Order's cross, a prestigious insignia of French knighthood and a reminder of royal

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legitimacy. Technically, the work stands out for its use of pastel, whose velvety texture allows for extremely fine chromatic transitions, particularly visible in the skin tones and the brilliance of the azure blue. The reverse of the work reveals an antique linen canvas, whose natural oxidation confirms a dating back to the late 18th century. Although the canvas was previously trimmed and remounted in a modern frame, the portrait retains remarkable pigment freshness. Under the Ancien Régime, this type of portrait served not merely as decoration but as a true manifesto of political loyalty. Intended primarily for the nobility, such a work allowed one to display, within a study or private salon, an unwavering attachment to the Bourbon dynasty and the figure of the peacemaker king. The use of pastel--more intimate and vibrant than oil painting--suggests a prestigious commission for a restricted circle, where the sovereign's image acted as a personal bond and a sign of rallying to royal power. In a classic format (59 x 49 cm), this portrait constitutes a choice historical and artistic testimony, illustrating the enduring popularity of the first of the Bourbons. Canvas dimensions: 59 x 49 cm Frame dimensions: 68 x 57 cm We are looking for antique portraits. Do not hesitate to contact us for any proposals or inquiries. Photos are taken in natural light. Careful packaging. Shipping costs to be paid by the buyer. I remain at your disposal for any further information or additional photos.