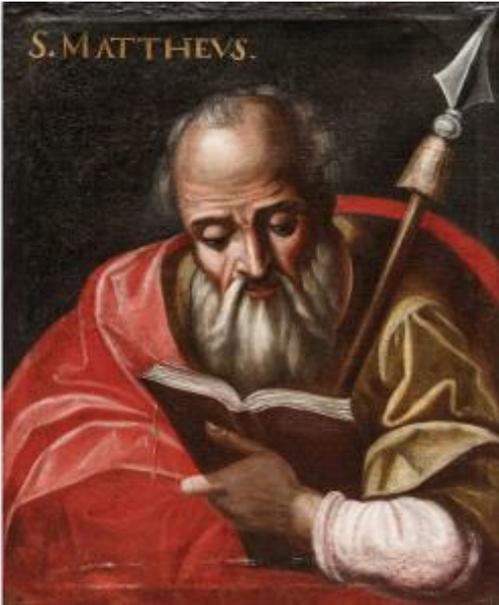




## Italian School, 18th Century, Saint Matthew



1 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 49

Height : 64

### Description

Italian School, 18th century Saint Matthew Oil on canvas, 64 x 49 cm This canvas, an oil on canvas attributable to the 18th-century Italian school, depicts Saint Matthew the Evangelist captured in a moment of intimate reflection and study, presenting itself as a typical example of late Baroque devotional painting where the solemnity of the sacred subject is mediated by a human and naturalistic approach. The Saint is portrayed half-length, with his gaze lowered and deeply focused on reading an open book, a symbol of his Gospel, while his physiognomy reveals an elderly man with a high forehead furrowed by wrinkles and a thick gray beard rendered with material brushstrokes that give volume to his face. Matthew wears a brightly colored robe, with a deep red cloak that wraps around his left

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shoulder, creating a strong chromatic contrast with the brown and gold tones of the tunic below, while behind him stands a spear, a traditional reference to the martyrdom he suffered in Ethiopia, and at the top left the golden inscription "S. MATTHEVS." identifies the subject. The style reflects the influence of Tenebrism filtered through the sensibilities of eighteenth-century Italy, with a light source coming from the top left to enhance the three-dimensionality of the figure, and a drapery that, despite its schematic nature, shows golden reflections and a decorative research typical of the cultured workshops of the period. The choice to represent the apostle as an absorbed scholar in the text underscores the saint's scriptural authority, combining the strength of the religious message with an almost domestic representation of holiness, demonstrating a technical expertise in the management of the impastos that makes the work significant for understanding the diffusion of sacred painting in the private collections of eighteenth-century Italy.