



French School, Circa 1600 Portrait Of Henry Iv



2 000 EUR

Signature : École française, vers 1600

Period : 17th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 58 cm

Height : 69 cm

Description

French School, circa 1600 Portrait of Henry IV Oil on canvas 69 × 58 cm "But what is it to be great? To have the modesty to serve one's fellow men while surpassing them. These words by Heinrich Mann, written in 1935, perhaps offer one of the most accurate formulations of the figure of Henry IV of France -- not only as a sovereign, but as an embodiment of measured and humane power. This perception of the king was not constructed retrospectively: it emerged immediately in the aftermath of his tragic death, establishing him, for subsequent generations, as the ideal of a rule grounded in reason and moderation. The tradition of his glorification, widely disseminated through imagery, was largely interrupted during the French Revolution, when many representations were lost. Even today, painted portraits of the

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sovereign remain relatively rare. The present painting, executed by an anonymous master around 1600, belongs to the typology of official portraits intended to disseminate the king's image: a starched ruff, a direct gaze, and a sober composition. It participates in the construction of a presence -- that of a king both accessible and humane, whose authority rests as much on his image as on memory.