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Lino Selvatico, Portrait Of A Bearded Man With Hat, Oil On Panel, Cm 34×24.5



1 500 EUR

Signature : Lino Selvatico

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 24,5 cm.

Height : 34 cm.

Description

Lino Selvatico

Padua, 1872 - Treviso, 1924 Portrait of a Bearded Man with Hat

oil on panel, cm 34×24.5

On the reverse, pencil inscription: "Lino Selvatico"

In a fine gilded wood frame, overall dimensions cm 63.5×53.5 The painting depicts a middle-aged man shown in close-up, three-quarter view, his face slightly lowered and his penetrating, meditative gaze turned toward the viewer. The subject wears a wide-brimmed hat of late nineteenth-century bourgeois style, which casts a soft shadow over his ruddy face, framed by a short, bristly beard. The right hand, robust and modelled with assured touches, is raised to the face in an absorbed gesture suggesting

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reflection or quiet anticipation. The painting is executed with a rapid, confident manner characteristic of Selvatico's studies from life: the brushstrokes are energetic and richly impasted, built up through overlapping chromatic touches that recall the lessons of Venetian Impressionist painting and the mastery of Ettore Tito. The background is animated by a range of muted greys and greens, with cool highlights that enhance by contrast the warm complexion of the subject. The composition is spare and powerful: the mass of the hat occupies almost a third of the painted surface, lending the figure a silent, almost sculptural authority. The work belongs to the lesser-known yet stylistically freest strand of Selvatico's output: his virile studies, executed either as preparatory exercises or as self-sufficient psychological investigations, far removed from the fashionable world of his celebrated female portraits. Here the painter displays an expressive forcefulness that recalls the character heads of the great Venetian tradition -- from Tintoretto to Giambattista Tiepolo -- filtered through the modernity of the post-Macchiaioli generation. The small panel reveals the hand of a fully accomplished artist, assured in drawing and an absolute master of colour.