



Portrait Of The Marquise De Montespan As The Penitent Magdalene



6 900 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Prévoir restauration

Length : 90

Width : 80

Description

The Zenith of the Royal Favorite This work of rare majesty captures Françoise-Athénaïs de Rochechouart de Mortemart, Marquise de Montespan, at the height of her splendor, just before her influence waned in favor of Madame de Maintenon. Following the prestigious iconography of the version held at the Hospice d'Oiron, this painting stands as a historical testament to the favorite's absolute power over the heart of the Sun King. Technical

Specifications
Medium & Technique: Oil on canvas, circa 1680.
Canvas Dimensions: 76 x 65 cm.
Framed Dimensions: Approximately 80 x 90 cm.
Attribution: Attributable to the Studio of Pierre Mignard and his circle.
Pictorial and Symbolic Analysis
The Alabaster Complexion: The treatment of the face and bust offers a

Dealer

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magnetic presence, typical of the great effigies of the Grand Siècle. The contrast between the porcelain skin and the dark background creates a striking depth. Translucent Drapery and "Bleu de France": The light, almost ethereal veil plays with light, revealing the technical finesse characteristic of Mignard's style. The "French Blue" of the gown recalls the marquise's near-royal rank, draped in heavy, satiny fabrics of great tonal depth. The Figure of the Magdalene: Depicted with her prayer book, she is portrayed in the tradition of "portraits historiés" (historiated portraits). The twilight setting emphasizes an atmosphere of meditation--a sophisticated blend of Baroque sensuality and feigned piety. Framing The work is enhanced by its period Louis XIV frame in carved solid oak, featuring a sound and lasting structure. It boasts rich ornamentation of fluted channels and sunflowers (the ultimate solar symbol) carved directly into the wood. Condition Report Antique work sold in "as-found" condition, ideally suited for a professional restoration to return it to its original brilliance. Canvas: Soiled varnish, relined, presence of old restorations and areas of pigment loss. Frame: Some losses, age-related wear, and chips to the gilding.