



Portrait Of A Gentleman, Anton Raphael Mengs (aussig, 1728 - Rome, 1779) Workshop



11 800 EUR

Signature : Anton Raphael Mengs (Aussig, 1728 - Rome, 1779) Atelier

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : encadré 113 cm.

Height : encadré 148 cm.

Description

Anton Raphael Mengs (Aussig, 1728 - Rome, 1779) Workshop Portrait of a Gentleman Oil on canvas 135 x 99 cm. - Framed 148 x 113 cm. Provenance: Arcadia Auction Rome, Palazzo Celsi, March 29, 2023 (attributed to a French painter active in Rome in the 18th century) <https://www.astearcadia.com/it/asta-0105/pittore-francese-del-xviii-secolo-pittore-francese-del-xvii...> The portrait of a gentleman presented here can be attributed to a painter of the Roman school active in the 18th century, specifically from the circle of Anton Raphael Mengs (Aussig, 1728 - Rome, 1779). Portrait painting in the 18th century experienced a golden age, transforming from a celebratory genre for the elite into a tool for social affirmation for the emerging bourgeoisie, and Rome--a mandatory stop on the

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Tel : +39 333 2679466 - Alessandro Padovani

Viale Giuseppe Canella, 18

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Grand Tour--became the cosmopolitan center where international artists immortalized nobles, intellectuals, and travelers. In this context, Mengs was a leading figure in the Neoclassical movement, bringing a new quest for truth and formal rigor to portraiture. The subject is a young nobleman portrayed seated on a red cushion; he wears a voluminous gray curly wig, a hallmark of social status at the time, and wears a brown damask velvet dressing gown (often identified as a 'banyan') with blue lapels over a loose white shirt, which lends the work a more intimate and less solemn character. He faces the viewer with a composed expression and a penetrating, introspective gaze. The pose of the male portrait with one hand inside the coat, a pictorial convention of the 18th and 19th centuries, was a sign of a composed posture but above all indicated authority, control, and calm, inspired by the etiquette manuals of the time as "masculine boldness tempered by modesty." It was, in fact, a way to express self-control and, consequently, control over others--a trait typical of the oratory of that era. Although it is commonly believed that this pose was invented by Napoleon (the leader was often depicted with his hand hidden in his waistcoat), it was actually a common convention used in many portraits of men from good families even earlier. Continuing our analysis of the painting, the vase of flowers (peonies and other wildflowers) on the table covered with a red tablecloth, overlooking a Mediterranean garden where architectural features are glimpsed, are common decorative elements used to emphasize the elegance of the setting and the subject's status. The work fully reflects the 18th-century taste for the new vision of Neoclassical art, which also embraced portraiture, with the abandonment of the excessive and redundant Baroque aesthetic in favor of a return to the principles of balance and composure: with these principles, Mengs soon became famous and sought-after, rivaling the older Pompeo Batoni (1708-1787) for the role of the capital's leading painter. He moved to Rome

in 1741 and quickly became an extraordinary portraitist, the highest-paid and most sought-after in Italy and at the European courts of the late 18th century, a point of reference for wealthy Grand Tour travelers who wished to visit his studio on Via Sistina to commission their portraits. The characteristics listed above would confirm the connection to Mengs's style, allowing us to attribute the work to an artist from his inner circle or to one of his many prominent pupils, whom he had both in Italy and in Spain, where he worked for the respective courts. It is difficult to identify a name with certainty, although in Rome Anton von Maron (Vienna, 1733 - Rome, 1808) was one of his most promising pupils, maintaining a style close to that of his master. In good condition, complete with an antique frame. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The work is sold complete with a certificate of authenticity and a descriptive iconographic sheet. We handle and arrange the transport of purchased works, both within Italy and abroad, through professional and insured carriers. You can also view the painting at our gallery in Riva del Garda; we would be delighted to welcome you and show you our collection of works. Please feel free to contact us for any additional information. Follow us on: **INSTAGRAM**
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