



"portrait Of The Doctor", Oil On Canvas



5 000 EUR

Signature : Attribué à Donatien Nonotte

Period : 18th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 80 cm.

Height : 100 cm.

Description

"Portrait of the Doctor", oil on canvas, probably depicting Albrecht von Haller (1708-1777) Swiss physician, scientist, naturalist, thinker and literary critic. The doctor is holding a jar containing a foetus. On the jar is the Latin phrase "Disce Me Noscere": get to know me. In the background are the names of Hippocrates, the precursor of medicine in 5th-century B.C. Greece, and Galen, the Roman physician who understood, popularized and transmitted the knowledge of the Greek scholar. Galen left an immense body of work, inviting us to methodically construct a diagnosis. He is indeed the founder of Western medicine. We also read the name of Boerhaave (1668-1738), a Dutch botanist, physician and chemist who revitalized medical didactics, making the University of Leiden Europe's leading

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medical center in the early 18th century. And also the name of Harvey, a 17th-century English physician credited with the discovery and demonstration of general blood circulation. Haller's importance to the history of medicine is above all the role he played in anatomy. He is considered the father of modern physiology. Through the preparation of some four hundred cadavers, he succeeded in describing the arterial network of the human body. He devoted further studies to blood circulation and embryonic development (formation of the heart and bones, appearance of malformations). Haller was in his day the most recognized disciple of the Herman Boerhaave school (1668-1738), who is regarded by the encyclopedia as "the greatest theorist we have ever had" on the basis of "his institutions of medicine, whose commentary Dr. Haller enriched with an infinite number of observations". In addition to his numerous research studies, on embryology (he defended the preformationist theory), the action of digestive juices, bone formation, respiration, salivary glands, heart vessels, congenital malformations. Extremely respected, he was the spiritualist son of Boerhaave and a great thinker on physiology, which he himself defined as "the description of the events that agitate the animate machine", i.e. without the aspect of function that can only be deduced as a consequence of exact anatomical knowledge. In 1736, he left Bern for Göttingen. There, he founded the Institute of Anatomy and the Botanical Garden, and opened Germany's first obstetrics clinic. He divided his life between Göttingen, where he was president of the College of Surgeons of the city's Royal Society and professor at the university founded by Frederic II from 1736 to 1753, and Bern, where he was a member of the city council, provincial captain of the canton, and where he ended his life. Later gilded wood frame. Attributed to Donatien Nonotte XVIII century