



Nicolas De Largillierre (1656-1746), Atelier De - Portrait Of A Young Abbot



4 500 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Oil on canvas. Original canvas, lined and beautifully restored in the early 20th century. Mark of an art dealer on the lining. This portrait, so close to the virtuosity of Nicolas de Largillierre, is a silent and eloquent testimony to France in the first quarter of the 18th century, a period when refinement reached almost unbearable heights of elegance. This is the Regency period, at the dawn of Louis XV's reign, when the heavy rigidity of the Sun King's Versailles faded in favor of a lighter, more intimate and, paradoxically, more calculated grace. In this work, elegance lies not in the ostentation of jewels, but in the mastery of textures: the sumptuousness of the absolute black of the cloak, which requires a prodigious pictorial technique not to fade into the shadows, and the

Dealer

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surgical contrast of the clergyman's white collar, which frames a face where the skin seems to retain the freshness of rice powder and carmine. The sophistication of this period is evident in the geometry of the hairstyle: this powdered wig, which falls with aristocratic elegance over the shoulders, was not a mere accessory, but a status symbol requiring upright posture and restrained gestures. The model exudes that French sprezzatura: a nonchalant confidence that disdains effort. It's the aesthetic of a world that has elevated appearance to an art form, where even a young abbot is haloed by intellectual and worldly distinction. The neutral, unobtrusive background, so characteristic of Largillierre's milieu, only serves to underline this incomparable elegance; here, the individual is at the center of a universe that refined manners, dress and art into a language of subtle signs of power and good taste, before the explosion of the most ornate Rococo style flooded everything with its infinite curves.- Image size unframed: 59.5 x 71 cm / 75 x 84.5 cm with exclusive custom-made frame.