



19th-century French School, Portrait Of A Man Reading, Oil On Canvas



1 320 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 29

Height : 36

Description

19th century French school, Portrait of a Reading Man, Oil on canvas 36 x 29 cm framed : 40.5 x 33.5 cm Provenance : as indicated on a label on the reverse of the canvas "Collection Aug. Millot artiste peintre (1852-1910), collection Paul Millot" (see photograph please) This small-format work, executed in oil on canvas and presented in its period frame stands as a remarkable example of the intimate portrait as practised in the second half of the 19th century. The subject -- a bearded, bespectacled man absorbed in the reading of a document -- is rendered with a sobriety and economy of means characteristic of the Realist tradition. The palette, resolutely dark, plays across a range of browns, blacks and greys, broken only by the cold light falling upon the face and the sheets of paper held in hand. This

Dealer

Remi Fremiot

Old Masters paintings and drawings

Mobile : 0676497593

Metro Poissonnière

Paris 75010

emphatic chiaroscuro testifies to a thorough command of the 17th-century Dutch masters, whose influence left a lasting mark on both the French and Belgian schools of the period. The brushwork is free and vigorous in the shadowed areas, more precise and nuanced across the face, revealing the technical mastery of an academically trained painter. The work as a whole conveys an impression of psychological truth and silent presence, hallmarks of the finest achievements in the genre. Attribution remains to be established. The work belongs to the lineage of Realist portraitists active between 1860 and 1900, in the orbit of such artists as Théodule Ribot, François Bonvin or Léon Bonnat in France, or their contemporaries of the Belgian school.