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A Man Reading A Letter In His Study. Adriaen Van Ostade (1610-1685)



9 700 EUR

Signature : Adriaen van Ostade (1610-1685)

Period : 17th century

Condition : Parfait état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 64

Height : 70

Description

Dutch School, circa 1670 Oil on oak panel (parquet-style) Presented in a superb and rare 17th-century period frame, made of ebony veneer, heavily molded with an inverted profile and a checkerboard pattern in the center Dimensions with frame: 70 x 64 cm. Panel alone: 34 x 28 cm This intimate scene, attributed to Adriaen van Ostade, depicts a man warmly dressed in a comfortable house robe, absorbed in reading a letter, seated in the studious calm of his study. Here, the painter displays the full range of his skill in Dutch genre painting: a subdued atmosphere, precise depictions of everyday objects, and subtle lighting that reveals the figure's concentration. On the table, a beautiful Oriental rug with colorful patterns adds a touch of refinement and warmth, contrasting with the

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simplicity of the wooden furniture. The scattered papers, books, and inkwell form a skillfully orchestrated still life, reflecting Ostade's interest in bourgeois interiors and intellectual pursuits. The room is lit by a mullioned window, whose soft light frames the scene. Through the top of the opening, a Virginia creeper winds its way into the space, adding an unexpected touch of nature and enhancing the understated charm of this interior. Adriaen van Ostade (1610-1685), a leading figure of the Haarlem School, is renowned for his depictions of taverns, workshops, and domestic interiors. Works attributed to his circle or studio attest to the enduring influence of his style, particularly in the treatment of light and the poses of the figures. The composition of this painting, its subject, and its treatment closely resemble a work in the Louvre: *Man Reading a Letter in His Study*, attributed to the same artist. Related Works *Man Reading a Letter in His Study*, Louvre Museum--similar composition, comparable atmosphere, and the same type of figure. *Lawyer at Work in His Office*, attributed to Adriaen van Ostade, Van Ham auction, November 21, 2025, lot 1061--another example of an intellectual interior scene in the Ostadian tradition. This painting is a fine example of 17th-century Dutch genre painting, offering an intimate scene imbued with realism and poetry. The quality of the execution, the balance of the composition, and the stylistic similarity to recognized works by the master make this a particularly appealing piece for connoisseurs of the Dutch School. Excellent condition. Sold with a certificate of authenticity.