



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Portrait Of A Merchant - Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (guercino)



14 400 EUR

Signature : Giovanni Francesco Barbieri Guercino

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Pastel

Width : 32cm

Height : 40.5cm

Description

This fine work is after a drawing by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri Guercino, Italian, (1591-1666), which is part of the National Museum collection in Sweden. This red chalk drawing on light brown paper, clearly shows the careful hatching and crosshatching in by the artist. The unknown sitter is physically present, even from side profile. The hat and jacket give a sense of wealth but not extravagance. His hat is of a type that one sees in other portraits by Bartolomeo Passarotti and other contemporaries. The man's pronounced nose, facial hair, and angular features are captured with an immediacy. The heavy eye lids and posture give him an air of authority. There is another copy of the drawing in the Royal collection at Windsor Castle. Giovanni Francesco Barbieri Barbieri was called Guercino

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in reference to his pronounced squint. He was the leading Bolognese painter after the death of Guido Reni. His earlier pictures typically combine the chiaroscuro effects of Caravaggio with a charm and softness not usually found in followers of this artist. Guercino was born at Cento, near Bologna. He was largely self-taught but influenced by the Carracci and particularly by Ludovico Carracci. An early commission in Bologna was the altarpiece of the 'Investiture of Saint William' (1620, Bologna, Pinacoteca). In 1621 Guercino was invited to Rome to work for Pope Gregory XV. His ceiling fresco, Aurora, was painted for the Pope's nephew (Rome, Villa Ludovisi). On the death of the Pope, Guercino returned to Cento; he settled in Bologna, probably in 1644, after the death of Reni. His later work is more academic, closer to the manner of Reni, and lacks the bravura handling and chiaroscuro effects of his earlier paintings.