



Intimate Portrait Of A Young Woman Holding A Miniature; Surrounded By Figures; By Vigée Le Brun



1 650 EUR

Signature : école Française

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 38

Height : 44

Description

18th-century French school, circa 1775-1785 -
From the circle of Louise-Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun - Portrait of a young woman holding a miniature and a letter. The composition is centered on a half-length figure, turned slightly to the right but looking directly at the viewer. This pose immediately creates a sense of intimacy. The face is rendered with great tenderness: the calm, slightly melancholic blue-gray eyes, the delicately rosy lips, and the faintly flushed cheeks lend the subject a sensitive, almost silent presence. One of the painting's main attractions lies precisely in this psychological portrayal--a restrained emotion, a form of intimate reverie. The miniature she holds in one hand and the letter she holds in the other introduce a very strong sentimental dimension. They may evoke the

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memory of a loved one, private correspondence, or an absence. The skin tone is particularly refined. The very fair, porcelain-like complexion is enlivened by a light blush on the cheeks and subtle warm hues around the mouth and nose. This luminous complexion stands out clearly against the dark brown-green background and the black garment, creating an effect of immediate presence. The face, neck, and forearms thus capture the bulk of the light. This treatment can be compared to the style developed by Vigée Le Brun and her circle between 1775 and 1785: very luminous faces, gentle expressions, the psychological presence of the model, natural elegance rather than ceremonial rigidity, and an emphasis on skin tones and gazes. The painter pays close attention to the accessories. Small golden highlights appear on the wood of the armchair with its green backrest, creating a few very subtle points of light on the left side of the composition. The frame of the miniature held by the young woman also receives a few highlights that emphasize its volume and discreetly draw the eye toward this object laden with meaning. The dark garment, widely open to reveal a piece of white muslin or gauze at the neckline, further accentuates the luminosity of the skin. The pearl bracelet on her wrist is another delicate detail, in keeping with the sophisticated and intimate style of late 18th-century female portraiture. The table, covered with a red cloth, forms a significant splash of color in the lower right corner. The deep red echoes the model's lips and helps balance the green of the armchair. The composition thus relies on a relatively limited but highly effective color palette: brown, black, green, red, white, and rosy skin tones. The frame is antique, made of carved and gilded wood, with a highly dynamic decoration of foliage and large openwork acanthus leaves. Its French or Italian Rococo design, particularly elaborate on the sides, top, and bottom, perfectly complements the work's 18th-century character. The gilding shows signs of wear, scuffing, and missing molding at the

bottom center of the frame; see photos. Painting
dimensions: 29 × 22 cm Total dimensions with
frame: 44 × 38 cm