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Miniature: Profile Portrait Of An "incroyable" From The Directoire Period, From Isabey's Circle, Circa



950 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Water color

Description

An exceptional oval miniature executed with infinite delicacy in gray and black wash, depicting the austere profile of a young man of high social standing, a perfect embodiment of the "golden youth" and elegance during the Directoire. The technical execution, of rare virtuosity, combines subtle, graduated washes with delicate highlights to create a strikingly three-dimensional, almost sculptural effect. The subject perfectly embodies the aesthetic of the Incroyables of this era of political transition and liberalization in fashion: A revolutionary hairstyle: The figure sports a "à la Titus" or "dog-ear" hairstyle, then at the height of fashion. The hair is cut short on top and artfully tousled into unruly strands, while long, supple locks fall freely over the temples and ears. This style,

Dealer

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which marks a definitive break from the powdered wigs of the Ancien Régime, draws inspiration from ancient Roman busts while displaying a studied nonchalance typical of the late 18th century. The attire: He wears a woolen coat with a very wide stand-up collar and generous lapels, complemented by a voluminous, billowing muslin cravat that wraps around the chin--an absolute hallmark of distinction under the Directory. This work is fully in line with the tradition of the famous profile portraits developed with immense success by Jean-Baptiste Isabey (1767-1855) and his close circle. Isabey left a profound mark on the art of the miniature through the surgical precision and classical restraint of his compositions. Framing: The miniature (8 x 7 cm) is presented under its original domed glass in a fine square frame of blackened wood (12 x 12 cm) with an oval view highlighted by a gilt brass border. It retains its original bronze hanging ring (eyelet), delicately chased in the shape of a vine leaf. Condition: Excellent original condition. The wash technique has retained all its original freshness and contrasts. There are minute and very discreet signs of wear on the blackened wooden frame, which perfectly attest to its authenticity. Technical specifications: Period: Directoire (c. 1795-1799) Subject: Portrait of an "Incroyable" / A Figure from the Directoire Artist: Circle of Jean-Baptiste Isabey (1767-1855) Technique: Gray wash with highlights on paper Dimensions of the miniature (viewing area): 8 x 7 cm Frame dimensions: 12 x 12 cm Frame: Period frame in blackened wood, gilded brass trim, and a bronze hanging loop with a vine leaf motif