



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Guido Ubaldo Abbatini (1600-1656), Attributed To -- Portrait Of Cardinal Reinaldo d'Este



6 400 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

Oil on canvas. Previously re-stretched. Good condition. This portrait powerfully evokes the memory of Cardinal Rinaldo d'Este (1618-1672), whose life illustrates the close symbiosis between princely power and the high ecclesiastical hierarchy in the 17th century. Having begun his military career at a very young age, even before taking his vows, Rinaldo was elevated to the cardinalate by Urban VIII in 1641, briefly becoming the youngest Italian cardinal in the Curia. His career was marked by a meteoric rise--from Bishop of Reggio Emilia and commendatory chancellor of Cluny to Cardinal-Bishop of Palestrina--and by a decisive political role within the House of Este. He served as regent of the Duchy of Modena on several occasions and helped preserve the dynasty's

Dealer

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sovereignty following the deaths of his brother Francis I and his nephew Alfonso IV. This effigy, very similar to the one preserved in the Appartamento del Paradiso of the Ducal Palace in Mantua, represents a pinnacle of 17th-century Italian court portraiture. From an attributional and formal perspective, this portrait, like its Mantuan counterpart, is associated with the refined style of Guido Ubaldo Abbatini (c. 1600-1656), one of Gian Lorenzo Bernini's closest collaborators in Baroque Rome. Specializing in transposing the theatrical rhetoric of the High Baroque into the format of portraits of dignitaries, Abbatini's style is distinguished by his sculptural treatment of the cardinal's mozzetta--a vibrant purple--whose luminous folds capture the light with an almost sculptural quality. The restraint of the composition and the psychological subtlety of the gaze--which reconcile the majesty of the purple robes with the shrewdness of the statesman ruling from behind the scenes--attest to the mastery of the Roman school of the second third of the 17th century. This portrait thus acquires great iconographic value and illustrates the pictorial language of the court in the service of high papal and ducal diplomacy.- Image dimensions without frame: 72 x 95 cm / 94 x 116.5 cm with a superb antique frame in wood gilded with gold leaf.