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## Portrait Of A Young Woman; Oil On Canvas; A Pupil Of Jean-baptiste Santerre; Neapolitan School



3 200 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Oil painting

Width : 63

Height : 76,5

### Description

Portrait of a Young Woman with a Collar. Oil on canvas. A pupil of Jean-Baptiste Santerre, 18th-century Neapolitan school. Dimensions: 76.5 cm high x 63 cm wide (without frame). The painting depicts a young servant girl, likely from a wealthy family, who appears to have been startled by the viewer's arrival while she is working in the kitchen. Her dark, lively eyes, far from looking away, meet the viewer's gaze with a half-smile on her lips. Her face is beautiful, yet devoid of the artifice of a high-society lady: rosy cheeks without any makeup, a simple, unadorned hairstyle, lips of a natural color... all characteristics typical of the characters depicted by the creator of the original work, Jean-Baptiste Santerre (1651-1717). She holds a cabbage and a knife in her hands. She wears a simple blouse that,

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as it slips down, offers a glimpse of the beauty of her shoulders. It is an image that radiates sensuality. A restrained composition against a dark background with various shades of brown highlights the brightly colored silhouette of the young woman, as well as the rest of the elements in this oil painting. This striking contrast between light and shadow suggests an artist from the Italian school--more specifically, the Neapolitan school--who likely had the opportunity to admire Santerre's original work, while lending the composition a "very Mediterranean" touch. A label on the back attributes it to the 18th-century Neapolitan school and assigns it the number 39, suggesting that it belonged to a significant collection of paintings. Jean-Baptiste Santerre (1651-1717) was a French Baroque artist and a disciple of François Lemaire. He quickly moved away from his master's Italian influences to embrace the style of Northern European artists, including Rembrandt and Van Dyck. His body of work is particularly notable for its aristocratic portraits, some of which--such as that of Philippe d'Orléans, Regent of France--are housed at the Prado Museum in Madrid. His work is characterized not only by a rich palette of colors and high quality, but also by a touch of sensuality that he infuses into his works, including religious ones, as can be seen in the oil painting depicting the young maid that is the focus of this discussion. This characteristic was not always well received by his contemporaries. He distinguished himself by founding an academy for women in Versailles, where he taught them drawing and illustration. This painting, depicting the "Young Maid with a Collar," is a perfect example of the portraits and genre scenes so characteristic of the artist, in which the young maid captivates the viewer. Although we know that the French artist painted several versions of the oil painting in question here, many of them have been lost. However, the Museum of Fine Arts in Reims (France) houses a similar work by the artist Jean-Baptiste Santerre (1651-1717) (Fig. 1). Also

found in the "Catalogue Raisonné of  
Paintings, drawings, prints (...) that made up the  
collection of the late Mr. Poullain" (Paris, 1780)  
by J.B.P. Le Brun, the original engraving titled  
"The Cabbage Cutter."