



Portrait Of An Architect With Compass - Oil On Canvas, Signed And Dated 1757 - 18th Century



2 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

A fine mid-18th-century oil portrait depicting an architect shown half-length against a dark background, wearing a red coat with fabric-covered buttons and a white shirt adorned with an elaborate lace jabot and cuffs. The sitter holds a particularly interesting architectural drawing, remarkable for the technical details represented. The lower section illustrates the floor plan of a building, showing the arrangement of walls, several openings, and a staircase. Above it appears a sectional elevation of the building's timber roof structure. A graphic scale is also depicted along one side of the drawing. In his left hand, the architect holds an open drafting compass. The architectural drawing and compass occupy a prominent place in the composition, clearly identifying the sitter's

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profession. Particular attention has been paid to the rendering of the clothing, especially the fabric-covered buttons and the delicate lace of the jabot and cuffs, whose intricate patterns are carefully depicted. The sitter's face stands out against a deep brown background. His gray hair, worn at medium length and gently waved, frames his features. The composition is characteristic of mid-18th-century European portraiture. The painting is in very good condition, retaining its original, unlined canvas and its old wooden stretcher with fixed joints. No visible overpainting or previous restoration has been observed. A few minor areas of paint loss and an age-related network of craquelure are present. The canvas bears a signature, which remains to be fully deciphered, together with the date "1757." The portrait is presented in a beautiful 18th-century molded and gilded softwood frame. The molding features a thin layer of gesso with finely carved and incised decoration of scrolling foliage in the manner of Jean Bérain, complemented by engraved and crosshatched backgrounds. The gilding shows some age-related wear and minor historic losses. Mid-18th century, signed and dated 1757. Dimensions: Visible painting: 90 × 70 cm (35.4 × 27.6 inches) Including frame: 101.5 × 81.5 cm (40 × 32.1 inches)