Portrait Of A Gentleman As Saint John The Baptist, Circle Of Nicolas Mignard, 17th Century



5 800 EUR

Signature : Entourage de Nicolas Mignard (1606-1668)

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 43 cm

Height : 51 cm

Description

Portrait of a Gentleman as Saint John the BaptistCircle of Nicolas Mignard (1606-1668)17th century French School, circa 1660-1670Oil on canvasDimensions: height 37 cm, width 30 cmLouis XIV 17th-century carved and giltwood frame, richly decorated with foliage, fruit and floral motifsFramed dimensions: height 51 cm, width 43 cmThis charming portrait depicts a young gentleman in the guise of Saint John the Baptist. The work reflects the 17th-century fashion for the portrait historié, in which princes and noblemen were portrayed as saints, heroes or gods, associating their likenesses with the virtues and symbolic qualities of the chosen figure. Bare-chested, the sitter wears a camel-skin garment that leaves one shoulder exposed and holds a reed cross entwined with a

Dealer

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Old Masters from 16th to 18th century
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banderole, bringing together the saint's traditional attributes.With his torso slightly turned, he directs his gaze towards the viewer, while his raised arm lends an elegant movement to the composition. His long brown hair falls in soft curls over his shoulders, framing a face with delicately rosy flesh tones. A fine moustache accentuates his upper lip. Together with his long, curling hair, it reflects the masculine fashions of the early reign of Louis XIV and supports a date of circa 1660-1670.The delicately drawn lips, gentle gaze and softly blended flesh tones lend the sitter a sensitive presence. The light concentrated on the figure and the deliberately restrained palette emphasise his bare chest and arm, their luminous flesh harmonising with the reddish-brown tones of the camel skin and standing out against a dark landscape touched with twilight. The oval format draws the composition closely around the face and gesture, enhancing the intimate character of the portrait.Although anonymous, the artist was influenced by Nicolas Mignard, whose manner is echoed here in the softness of the modelling, the fluid treatment of the hair and the attention paid to facial expression. The restrained palette and subtly rosy flesh tones reinforce this stylistic affinity, placing the portrait within French painting of the 1660s and the circle of Nicolas Mignard.