Portrait Of A Privateer - Francis Hayman (1708-1776)



8 200 EUR

Signature : Francis Hayman (1708-1776)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Width : 36cm

Height : 51cm

Description

ProvenanceCharles Fleischmann EsqHere, a small full-length portrait of a captain using his tricorn hat to take our gaze to his ship. He stands under a cliff, and on the right there is a ship at anchor in the bay, flying the red ensign and commissioning pennant.At this stage the sitter is not in uniform and the ship would be a merchantman or a privateer.Privateers were a large part of the total military force at sea during the 17th and 18th centuries. In the first Anglo-Dutch War, English privateers attacked the trade on which the United Provinces entirely depended, capturing over 1,000 Dutch merchant ships.It is possible that the sitter of the painting could be George Walker the Privateer who died 1777)Francis Hayman Born in 1708 to a respectable Devonshire family, his training began

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at the tender age of ten under the tutelage of the historical painter Robert Brown, who was probably an uncle. By the 1730's he is known to have been engaged in painting scenery for the popular theatres on Goodman's Fields and Drury Lane. He established a studio on St Martin's Lane, and demonstrated his versatility as one of the most important painters of his time in portraits, illustration and history painting. Indeed, he was one of the first English painters deemed to have the skill and proficiency to rival that of the foreign masters, such as Holbein and Kneller, who were brought in by the court to make up for the perceived shortcomings of the native artists.Led by William Hogarth, Hayman and other artists began to create a new movement in the English art world. Thomas Gainsborough was one of his pupils, whom he is said to have introduced to the more lascivious and debauched underbelly of London life.After mostly making his living as an illustrator, in the 1740's Hayman was commissioned by the proprietor of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, Jonathan Tyers, to produce a series of four large celebratory canvases depicting British victories from the Seven Years War. His association with Tyers continued, and over the next ten years he produced a number of large decorative paintings for the ornate supper boxes that were a very popular feature of the gardens.Success as a portrait and conversation piece artist arose from his relaxed style, which cast aside the usual formal settings and poses to embrace the genteel environments of the urban middle classes in society, depicting their privileged life. These were often painted in the rococo style, which had become very popular in England in the early eighteenth century.In 1768 Hayman is listed as a founding member of the Royal Academy, and rather ironically, given his rather wayward character, held the office of Academy Librarian from 1771 until his death in 1776.He is believed to have been married twice, although there is no surviving record of his first marriage. Hayman

died of gout in his house on Dean Street in Soho in February 1776. He is buried in an unmarked grave in nearby St Anne's churchyard.LiteratureAllen, Brian, Francis Hayman, Yale University Press, (1987).MuseumsVictoria and Albert Museum, LondonNational Portrait Gallery, LondonThe Art Institute of Chicago Royal Academy of Arts, London