Nicolas De Largillière (1656-1746), Circle Of -- *le Bel Abbé*



6 500 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Description

- Oil on canvas. Restoration and relining work of great finesse.- This abbot, with his youthful and affable face, framed by a thick, curly wig and dressed in a dark robe adorned with a lapel, naturally embodies the figure of the worldly and learned clergyman, imbued with the new spirit that swept through the transition to the Age of Enlightenment. Beneath the formal solemnity of his attire, one senses the temperament of a witty conversationalist, more inclined toward the elegant irony of salons, critical reading, and the Voltairean spirit than toward dogmatic rigidity; a man who observes, with keen curiosity and a slight, restrained smile, the dawn of a new intellectual era, in which reason, brilliant conversation, and a subtle mischief are beginning to supplant the solemnity inherited from the

Dealer

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past.Affinities with Nicolas de Largillière's immediate circle are evident in this natural elegance, which softens the conventions of traditional portraiture, lending the subject a warm, serene, and entirely unaffected human presence. Like other works from this circle, the muted greenish-brown background focuses all expressive power on the face--marked by the subtle flush of the cheeks, a direct gaze, and a mouth with firm yet serene features. The understated black, contrasting with the lightness of the flap, acts as a subtle counterpoint that highlights the freshness of the face and the refinement of the composition as a whole, all enhanced by a gilded frame adorned with botanical motifs.- Dimensions of the artwork (without frame): 59 x 72 cm / 72 x 84.5 cm with its exclusive, custom-made frame.