



A Grand Tour ring set with a carnelian intaglio. Portrait of a gentleman.

Circa: 18th century

Intaglio: 2 x 1.3 cm (0 ³/₄ x 0 ¹/₂ inches)

Mounting: Gold; UK size P app. ; total weight 5,19 gr

Grand Tour era, 18th century

A captivating testimony to the Grand Tour tradition, this gold ring features a finely carved carnelian intaglio depicting a private portrait of a young gentleman, likely French, shown in profile facing left.

The effigy displays remarkable character, distinguished by voluminous, flowing hair rendered with exceptional detail and naturalism. Such intimate portraits were highly fashionable among European aristocracy during the 18th century, often commissioned as personal keepsakes or tokens of affection.

The stone exhibits a beautiful, luminous red hue characteristic of the finest carnelian. Remarkably, this intaglio retains its original coeval gold mount, making this ring an increasingly rare survivor from the golden age of the Grand Tour.