



**18th Century painting of Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester
£750.00**

18th Century oil on wood panel painting featuring Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester.

Note: No frame

Dimensions:

Height: 34 x 28.2 cm

Depth: 0.8 cm

Condition: The artwork exhibits its antique state, with paint revealing various natural crackling patterns indicative of its age, while the Nobleman's facial features remain intact.

The history:

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, was a prominent figure in Elizabethan England, known for his close relationship with Queen Elizabeth I and his influential role in court politics. Born on June 24, 1532, Dudley was the fifth son of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and his wife, Jane Guildford.

Dudley's early life was marked by privilege and ambition. He received an excellent education and became a favourite at the court of King Edward VI. However, his family's fortunes took a dramatic turn when his father's political machinations led to his execution for treason in 1553.

Despite this setback, Dudley managed to navigate the treacherous waters of Tudor politics. After the accession of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558, he quickly rose to prominence, thanks in part to his charm, intelligence, and good looks. He became one of Elizabeth's closest advisors and confidants, and there were even rumours that they were romantically involved.

In 1564, Dudley was created Earl of Leicester, cementing his position as one of the most powerful nobles in England. He used his influence to amass wealth and land, becoming one of the richest men in the country. He also played a key role in England's foreign policy, particularly in its relations with the Netherlands and France.

Despite his political success, Dudley's personal life was marked by tragedy. His first wife, Amy Robsart, died in mysterious circumstances in 1560, leading to speculation that Dudley had orchestrated her death to clear the way for a marriage to Queen Elizabeth. Although there is no evidence to support this theory, it damaged Dudley's reputation and strained his relationship with the queen.

Dudley's fortunes took another blow in 1588 when his proposed marriage to Elizabeth was rejected. He never recovered from this disappointment and died on September 4, 1588, at the age of 56. Despite his flaws and controversies, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, remains a fascinating figure in English history, whose life was intertwined with the fortunes of the Tudor dynasty.

Origin	British
Period	Pre 1900
Condition	Consistent with age

Antique ref: 18th Century painting of Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester