

# BUST OF POPE INNOCENT XI

Artist: Unknown  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> Century  
Dimensions: 85 x 60 x 35 cm  
Material: Painted and gilded wood with bronze color  
Inventory Number: 57779

Total Cost: € 8.050,00

## STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The bust is in a precarious state of conservation, the name written on the base is almost lost, and the coat of arms damaged. This bust is affected by missing areas which must be repaired with plaster to fill in the deficiencies. After scientific investigation, the restorers will complete the intervention by cleaning and rebalancing the surface prior to commencing with the proper cleaning and conservation of the gilding.

## RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Removal of dust
- Complete cleaning
- Consolidation of cracks and gaps
- Consolidation of the gilded surface
- Reintegration of missing parts
- Scientific research
- Photographic documentation

This bust of Pope Innocent XI (Odescalchi, 1676 - 1689) follows the great Baroque tradition of papal portraits made famous in the 17<sup>th</sup> century especially by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. These portraits were also known as "monumental busts" and were intended to perpetuate the admiration and awe for the Pope. The bust displays a mature and refined baroque style - classical and composed. The coat of arms of Pope Innocent XI is located on the pedestal of the work.

Rigorous and austere, Pope Innocent XI is most likely portrayed at the beginning of his pontificate.

This bust is a rare example of a work of art completed for a pope who was far more interested in action and in the moral and economic recovery of the country than in art.

The bust, in gilded and partially painted wood, shows an elegant model enhanced by a refined technique that uses several different types of gilding. The wood was prepared and covered with an adhesive plaster before the artist laid the gilding using mecca, mission and bolus techniques (different techniques in order to diversify the work and give it greater movement of colors and chiaroscuro highlights).

