



Mona Lisa #18
30x40 - Acrylic On Canvas
Location: Miami (in storage)

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Artist: Joaquin Avila
Nationality: Cuban, b. 1989
Title: *Mona Lisa No. 18*
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Dimensions: 30 x 40 in (76.2 x 101.6 cm)
Type: Unique work

PROVENANCE

Acquired directly from the artist. Certificate of Authenticity held by the collector.

CONDITION

Mint condition. The work presents in pristine, exhibition-ready state with no visible surface defects, colour loss, or handling wear. Professionally framed in a high-quality presentation frame. Ready to install.

Joaquin Avila

Painting

ARTWORK DETAILS

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Joaquin Avila was born in Guantanamo, Cuba in 1989 and has rapidly established himself as one of the most compelling voices in contemporary Cuban painting. His work gained international attention when a piece donated to the United Nations auction for Scholas — Pope Francis's global education initiative — sold for a considerable sum, leading to a personal audience with His Holiness at the Vatican in March 2019. Avila subsequently painted the largest mural in New York City history, cementing his reputation as an artist of both institutional recognition and popular reach. His figurative paintings draw on Cuban artistic tradition, Baroque portraiture, and African spiritual symbolism to create works of immediate visual power and cultural depth.

ARTWORK DESCRIPTION

Mona Lisa No. 18 is Avila's engagement with the most scrutinised image in Western art history — a dialogue that carries particular resonance from a Cuban artist whose cultural inheritance includes both European colonial imagery and the subversive tradition of appropriation and reinvention. Avila's treatment is neither pastiche nor homage but a genuine reimagining — the Leonardo source providing a structural foundation that Avila's chromatic language and cultural perspective transform into something entirely his own. The numbered series format acknowledges the ongoing, serial nature of this investigation.

VALUATION

Estimated Gallery Value: \$7,500 – \$10,000 USD
Insured Value: \$16,000 – \$20,000 USD

CURATORIAL NOTES

Mona Lisa No. 18 contributes to a significant Avila grouping within the collection — one of the deepest holdings of this artist's work currently available in a single private collection. The combination of papal recognition, the New York City mural commission, and sustained gallery representation positions Avila as one of the most compelling emerging Cuban artists in the international market.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Market Context: Avila's recognition by Pope Francis at the Vatican and his New York City mural commission represent institutional validation of exceptional significance for an artist of his generation. Gallery pricing for his unique acrylic works is consistent with this valuation range and reflects sustained demand from collectors of Cuban and Latin American contemporary art. Direct artist provenance with Certificate of Authenticity.