



# Joaquin Avila

## Painting

### ARTWORK DETAILS

**Artist:** Joaquin Avila (Cuban, b. 1989)

**Title:** *Voodoo*

**Medium:** Acrylic on Canvas

**Dimensions:** 30 x 40 in (76.2 x 101.6 cm)

**Type:** Unique work

### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

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

*Voodoo* is among Avila's most chromically intense works — the helmeted figure rendered in deep blacks, greens, and golds against a near-black ground, the ceremonial headpiece painted with an encrusted impasto that gives it a sculptural presence. The work draws on Afro-Cuban spiritual tradition, the figure's bearing suggesting both temporal and sacred authority. Avila's acrylic handling is at its most physically committed here, the paint applied in thick gestural strokes that mirror the ceremonial weight of the subject matter.

### VALUATION

**Estimated Gallery Value:** \$7,500 – \$10,000 USD

**Insured Value:** \$16,000 – \$20,000 USD

### CURATORIAL NOTES

*Voodoo* 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.

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### 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.