

Portrait of Stalin, in oil on fiberboard, artist signed, circa early 1950s.

Measures approx. 10 3/4" x 15 1/2" including the frame, 10" x 14 1/2" without. The frame is in unfinished pine wood, nailed together. The choice of medium (medium- to high-density fiberboard) and the way the frame is put together suggests that the painting is the work of a talented amateur. His name and initial, L. Didyk, is inscribed in the lower left-hand corner. Fiberboard (aka particleboard) quickly became an attractive medium for amateur artists. It removed the need for a stretcher required for canvas, was available in stores, relatively inexpensive and easy to cut to size with a handsaw. The frame is old but of a later vintage, c. 1970s-80s.

In very good to excellent condition. The artwork is almost blemish-free, showing just a vertical hairline running between Stalin's nose and left eye. The hairline blends in very well and is not too obvious. The frame is sturdy, and the 10 nails holding the painting in the frame are doing an excellent job of it.

Whether or not adoration of the "Great Stalin" was sincere, it was quite popular among amateur aspiring artists to paint, carve, etch, sculpt, or draw his image even though officially, it required a special license, not easily obtainable and available only to professional artists.

Please note that the medal in our photo is for size reference.

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\$550.00



