

Victorian Portrait of an English Terrier dog,  
19th Century English School

\$1,950



REF: 2366

Height: 35.55 cm (14")

Width: 30.47 cm (12")

## Description

Circle of George Earl

Portrait of an English Terrier  
Circa 1890

Oil on board

Unsigned

14 x 12 inches

A delightful late nineteenth-century portrait of an English Terrier, painted in the manner and circle of the celebrated Victorian animal painter George Earl. Executed with considerable charm and character, the work captures the alert expression and engaging personality of its canine subject, reflecting the Victorian era's deep affection for pedigree dogs and companion animals.

The terrier is portrayed in a close-up format against a simple green background, allowing the viewer's attention to focus entirely upon the animal's expressive features. The artist has skilfully rendered the dog's intelligent amber eyes, shaggy coat, and slightly open mouth, creating an image full of vitality and warmth. The loose yet confident brushwork used to describe the fur gives the painting a lively quality while preserving a strong sense of realism.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, dog portraiture became one of the most popular branches of British sporting and animal painting. The success of kennel clubs, dog shows, and organised breeding programmes led many owners to commission portraits of their prized companions. Among the finest exponents of the genre was George Earl, whose paintings are admired for their remarkable ability to convey both the physical likeness and individual temperament of his subjects.

This charming portrait demonstrates many of the qualities associated with the Earl circle: direct observation, sympathetic characterisation, and an evident affection for the animal portrayed. The intimate composition gives the work particular decorative appeal, while its honest and engaging depiction of the terrier makes it instantly relatable to dog lovers and collectors alike.

Presented in an attractive oval frame, the painting is a fine example of Victorian canine portraiture and would make a delightful addition to any collection of sporting, animal, or nineteenth-century British paintings.