

SA1001394

**Portrait of a Gentleman c.1680,
by Mary Beale.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1001394

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 86 cm (33.9")

Width = 72 cm (28.3")

Depth = 4.5 cm (1.8")

Description

A fine portrait by Mary Beale, in its original carved and giltwood frame. The sitter is depicted within a feigned stone oval ... a fashionable conceit much used by Beale and Lely. The canvas is a coarse weave, often used by the artist. It may be 'onion bag', 'sacking' or 'Osnabrug', three of the types mentioned in the notes kept by Mary's husband, Charles Beale, who organised the purchase of her materials and primed the raw canvases. 'Osnabrug' was a coarse cloth of linen or hemp, manufactured in Osnabruck in Germany. MARY BEALE (1633-1699) was born in Barrow, Suffolk, the daughter of John Cradock, a Puritan rector. Her mother, Dorothy, died when she was 10. Her father was an amateur painter, and member of the Painter-Stainers' Company, and she was acquainted with local artists, such as Nathaniel Thach, Matthew Snelling, Robert Walker and Peter Lely. In 1652, at the age of 18, she married Charles Beale, a cloth merchant from London - also an amateur painter. She became a semi-professional portrait painter in the 1650s and 1660s, working from her home, first in Covent Garden and later in Fleet Street. Mary Beale was not the only female painter in England, but her name ha...

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Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273