

SA1025645

Elizabethan Portrait of Thomas Vavasour in a Black Doublet
c.1587; Attributed to Hieronymus Custodis (died 1593), Oil on oak panel painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1025645

Date of manufacture: 16th Century

Dimensions

Height = 68 cm (26.8")

Width = 52 cm (20.5")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This magnificent portrait was painted during the last quarter of the 16th century – the Elizabethan era – the golden age in English History when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne. It is a splendid survival from circa 1587, a time that is sandwiched between two golden ages of English renaissance culture, the reigns of Henry VIII and Charles I. This period produced a style of painting quite unlike that anywhere else in Europe and one that deserves serious assessment. The motivation for portraiture during this period was not aesthetic, but rather dynastic - a means to record ancestors. For most individuals the idea of a painting as a work of art perhaps never existed; it was primarily an expression of rank and class. There is not a huge milieu of works remaining from this age and it must also be noted that of the two percent of the population that made up the gentry classes, many would have owned no portraits at all. Just a couple of years after our portrait was painted, from about 1590, English painting developed on another course, driven mainly by the artists Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger and Isaac Oliver; they depicted a new mood that was pervading Elizabethan and...

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