

SA1027188

Portrait of a Lady in an Elaborate Black Costume with Ruff and Pearls c.1615; Circle of Robert Peake the Elder (c.1551–1619), Oil on Panel painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1027188****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 140 cm (55.1")

Width = 89 cm (35.0")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

This exquisite, and important, stately portrait is a particularly splendid example of the sumptuous female portraits that were painted for members of the court and gentry during the early part of the 1600's. Dress was a key component in portraits, and the exuberant attire and extravagance of jewellery in this painting reiterates the incredible wealth of this Jacobean woman. The pearl coronet on her head is in the style typically only worn by a Duchess of the realm, further signifying her elevated status. The satin dress is decorated with myriad of fine white lace and embroidered with gold on the bodice and sleeves. The colour black, the most expensive colour of fabric to dye and to maintain, is juxtaposed against white. This striking combination was a favourite of Elizabeth I and courtiers in homage to the queen, just a few years earlier. There is an abundance of pearls, worn on both wrists, and as a heavy double rope around her neck and linked by a black rosette at her breast. Beneath her lavishly decorated dress is a petticoat called a wheel farthingale, an undergarment that flattened the abdomen and tilted the dress up at the back. The style was brought from Sp...

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