

SA1039198

OIL ON CANVAS PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM CONGREVE c.1709 - STUDIO OF SIR GODFREY KNELLER

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1039198****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 123 cm (48.4")

Width = 1071 cm (421.7")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This fine work reidentified by Period Portraits, depicts the famous playwright and poet William Congreve (1670-1729). The identification of this portrait is confirmed by the use of an identical head that appears in a 1709 portrait of Congreve by the Studio of Godfrey Kneller (NG 67) in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery (NPG), London. A close comparison shows the exact same features, including the calm eyes, strong nose and hearty double chin. His appearance here relates to a white chalk and charcoal head study by Kneller that survives in the Courtauld Collection, which may well have been used to produce this painting. As one of Britain's most fashionable painters, demand for Kneller's brush often exceeded his output. To remedy this, the artist employed a vast number of studio assistants to complete copies and variations on the master's own paintings. Bearing in mind the quality of the handling, it is conceivable that the portrait on offer was a repetition completed by a studio assistant working in Kneller's studio. Making use of a head study, perhaps the aforementioned Courtauld sheet, the artist working on this picture changed the position of the sitter's...

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