

SA1050954**17TH CENTURY OIL ON
PANEL PORTRAIT OF A
YOUNG GENTLEMAN c.1670 -
ATTRIBUTED TO THEODORE
ROUSSEL.**

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1050954****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 53 cm (20.9")

Width = 45 cm (17.7")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

Fine and intimate oil on panel portrait of a young gentleman circa 1670 Attributed to Theodore Rousel With his smooth skin and wide eyed gaze this striking subject exhibits the male ideal of beauty associated with the second half of the seventeenth century. He has heavy lidded oval eyes and cupid - bow lips as well as the slightly heavy jaw are seen in both male and female portraits of this era. The elegant sitter is depicted half length wearing a white linen shirt and a blue silk cloak with his curly chestnut hair tumbling naturalistically around his shoulders. Linen came in many grades of fineness and it was worn next to his skin to provide a washable layer. It was usual to want to display its snowy whiteness – and the costly labour- intensive process that kept it freshly laundered and clean. It is the interplay between rich silk and satin garments and the linen beneath that creates such a pleasing contrast of texture and colour within this portrait. It was fashionable in the second half of the seventeenth century for men to be depicted in 'undress' (in a kind of dressing gown called a 'banyan') but it is highly unusual to see a man depicted in just his shirt, as th...

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