

SA108088

**SOLD....Portrait of Lady
Derwentwater, by Michael Dahl**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA108088

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in well carved period frame, inscribed upper right 'Lady Derentwater'. (This was the way 'Derwentwater' was pronounced in Cumberland at the time; indeed, some still pronounce it this way today). This portrait is typical of Dahl's eloquent depiction of aristocratic women. The sitter rests her elbow on a stone plinth and supports her head with her hand, the drapery and sitter's turned head impart a subtle sense of movement, which, combined with the relaxed, even wistful pose helps convey a feeling of tranquillity. The veil on Lady Mary's head is a feature often used by Dahl, e.g. his portraits of the Duchess of Ormonde, Elizabeth Felton, Lady Hervey and the Countess of Clarendon. MARY, COUNTESS OF DERWENTWATER (1673 - 1726) was the illegitimate daughter of Charles II of England by his mistress, the actress and singer Mary 'Moll' Davis, a celebrated rival of Nell Gwynn, King Charles' London-born mistress who was also an actress. She was given the title of Lady Mary Tudor. In the 'Masque for the Entertainment of the King', John Blow's opera 'Venus and Adonis' of 1680, Moll created the role of Venus, while her daughter, Lady Mary, sang Cupid. This was the fi...

Internal Ref: 8565

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