

SA1081859

1680's Portrait of a Gentleman in a Lace Cravat and Armour; Circle of Pierre Mignard (1612-1695), called "Mignard le Romain"; Antique oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1081859

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 92 cm (36.2")

Width = 77 cm (30.3")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

The sitter in this portrait is displayed as a brave and chivalrous character. The gentleman has been depicted in armour, an elaborate full wig, and in accordance with the latest French fashion, an elaborate type of Venetian Gros point lace cravat and large silk bow (also called a cravat-string) – a type that were popular across Europe in the 1680's. Point lace was fabulously expensive - a cravat was equivalent to six weeks income for a gentleman - and therefore indicative of a wearer's wealth and social class. A nobleman riding onto the battlefield would wear a lace cravat over his armour to demonstrate his status. The attire, along with the coat-of-arms, help to proclaim to every onlooker that the gentleman is a superior being. The depiction of the lace, apart from denoting the wealth of the sitter, was a deliberate way for the artist to demonstrate his own artistic ambition and technical skills. Argent seasoned gule with three lozenges sable are those of the Crois family, who were minor nobility, originating from the Boulogne region in the north of France. The fact that the sitter is a high ranking noble excludes him as a member of the Crois family. As is so comm...

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