

SA1087282

c.1680 Portrait of a Boy
Gentleman and Pet Dog; Circle
of Mary Beale (c.1633-c.1699),
Antique oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1087282

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 90 cm (35.4")

Width = 82 cm (32.3")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

The portrait genre was valued particularly highly in English society. Neither landscapes nor allegorical pictures were ever priced so highly at exhibitions and in the trade as depictions of people, from the highest aristocracy to scholars, writers, poets and statesmen. This charming portrait of a fashionable young gentleman and his faithful pet is an excellent example of 17th century child portraiture in England. There is a remarkable beauty and sensitivity to the portrait. The face, particularly well rendered, has captured the character of this young man – both charming and at the same time mischievous. Only the playful attention of a small dog suggests anything less than patrician dignity. Symbolism was important in portraiture and it provided a pointed and aspirational narrative that would not have been lost on contemporary viewers. For example, the presence of the dog, which was likely the boy's pet, is at once a charming pictorial device and also a clear allusion to fidelity, trust and loyalty. The hairstyle and the attire, notably the type of cravat with the blue ribbon, help to date this portrait to between 1670 to 1685. Until the late eighteenth century chi...

Seller Details

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