

SA1108439

c.1710 Portrait of a Lady in a
Russet Silk Dress; Circle of
Michael Dahl (1659–1743),
Antique oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1108439

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 84.5 cm (33.3")

Width = 72 cm (28.3")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This charming work is a good example of the type of portrait in vogue during the first quarter of the eighteenth century in Britain. The sitter, portrayed bust-length, wears a russet silk dress over a white chemise. The clothing and hairstyle, with the small curls over the temples called "confidants" and long curls over one shoulder, help to date the portrait to the first quarter of the eighteenth century. At first, from a distance, the portrait seems like a standard formulaic head and shoulders one, but upon closer inspection, there are elements that are very alive, and have been rendered in a painterly style. The texture and highlights of the white chemise are particularly pleasing and have been rendered with urgency, using a palette knife to cut in horizontal strokes into the impasto. It is remarkable that these details are so well preserved after circa 300 years – which is, sadly, most often not the case in the majority of works of this age, often due to poor restoration. This portrait typifies Dahl's eloquent depiction of aristocratic women. His portraits are often softer than the work of his rival, Godfrey Kneller, and they often achieve a certain elegance...

Seller Details

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