

SA112217

Pair of portraits of William and Sarah Yorke c.1680; Circle of John Riley.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA112217

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Description

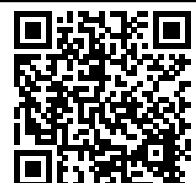
A pair of oils on oak panels of small size, late 17th century, probably painted to mark the marriage of the Yorkes. These charming portraits are unpretentious and have a good sense of the character of the sitters. There are several Yorke families in the country, including that of the Earls of Hardwicke; as yet it is not known which Yorke family is represented here. JOHN RILEY, or Ryley, (1646– 1691) was an English portrait painter. He painted portraits of Charles II and James II, and was court painter to William III and Mary II. One of his pupils was Jonathan Richardson. Riley was born in London, one of the sons of William Riley or Ryley, Lancaster herald and keeper of the records in the Tower of London; another son, Thomas, was an actor. Riley studied painting under Isaac Fuller and Gerard Soest, and from the latter learnt a forcible, straightforward style of portraiture which rendered his portraits noteworthy. Riley did not attain much eminence until the death of Sir Peter Lely, when courtier and royal official Thomas Chiffinch sat for him, and was so much pleased with his portrait that he showed it to the king. Charles II gave Riley some commissions, and eventually h...

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