

SA1128709

Portrait of a Lady with Scarlet Dress, Lace Collar, and Pearl Jewellery c.1620; by Claude Deruet (1588–1660), Oil on panel painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1128709

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 70 cm (27.6")

Width = 55 cm (21.7")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This charming jewel-like portrait is an example of the type of small-scale panel portraits, often of splendid beauties of the time, that became fashionable from about the first quarter of the seventeenth century. It represents a young woman dressed in resplendent scarlet attire with fashionable balloon-like slashed sleeves, and an elaborate openwork lace standing collar that has been painstakingly delineated. The accessory par excellence – pearls – are worn as a coronet, a necklace, and as earrings known as 'unions excellence' as they reflected the difficulty of finding perfectly matched pearls of such large size (they could range up to 20 millimetres in diameter). These expensive items, along with the whiteness of her skin, are indicative of the sitter's wealth and social status. These superb little portraits, reflections of high society in the French 17th century were very popular both at the time but also by collectors today some four hundred years later. The artist took great effect in rendering the facial details; this portrait sits within some of the best work by the artist and is a notable example of French portraiture. Held in a beautiful antique gilded f...

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Titan Fine Art

London United Kingdom



Tel: 07875 412 111

International Tel: +44 7875 412 111