

SA1131271

Portrait of a Lady Beside a Woodland Stream Holding a Shell c.1690; by Herman Verelst (1641-1702), Antique oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1131271

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 144 cm (56.7")

Width = 121 cm (47.6")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This elegant portrait depicts a beautiful young lady seated in a wooded area, resting one arm on a rock, before a landscape and a warm evening sky. She is wearing a white smock under russet-coloured silks, loosely held in place by an immense black diamond clasp on the sleeve, and her body is enveloped in a voluptuous swag of azure silk; the costly fabrics and jewels reveal that the sitter was a paragon of a wealthy and privileged society that she belonged to. Much of the attractiveness of this portrait resides in its graceful composition and the beauty of the youthful sitter. The flowing water in the left margin of the picture and the shell that she holds are compositional devices often used at the time to allude to her potential as wife and mother, recalling Proverbs, Chapter 5, Verse 18: "Let thye fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of thye youth". Symbolism was a key component to many works of this period and contemporary viewers would have deciphered them immediately. Such images exude a sense of status and Augustan decorum, and were highly influential in transmitting these values into the first half of the eighteenth century. Held in a good quality and...

Seller Details

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