

SA1144249

Portrait of Mary of Modena,
when Duchess of York
c.1675-80; Studio of Sir Peter
Lely (1618-80), Oil on canvas
painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1144249

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 146 cm (57.5")

Width = 122 cm (48.0")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This attractive portrait, most likely painted around 1675 to 1680, depicts the only Italian Queen to have ever shared the English throne, Mary of Modena (1658-1718) when she was Duchess of York. Mary is chiefly remembered for the contentious birth of her only surviving son, Prince James Francis Edward, where it was speculated that he was secretly brought into the delivery room in a warming pan to ensure the continuation of her husband's Roman Catholic Stuart lineage. The birth of the boy played a significant role in the 'Glorious Revolution', which resulted in the deposition of James II and VII, replacing him with Mary II and her spouse, William III of Orange. The pasture, classical column, and the laidback stance of the sitter invoke a sense of arcadia; this draws from the tradition of pastoral literature where life in the country was perceived as peaceful, contemplative, free of worry, and a time to pursue pleasure. By the early seventeenth century, Arcadia was already a popular theme in art and all educated individuals would have instantly recognised its meaning when viewing this portrait. Maria Beatrice Anna Margherita Isabella d'Este was born on 5 October 1658 as...

Seller Details

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