

SA1146486

Portrait of William of Orange
(1650–1702), later William III
before a Battlefield c.1680;
Circle of Peter Lely
(1618-1680), Oil on canvas
painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1146486****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 142 cm (55.9")

Width = 149 cm (58.7")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

This impressive portrait depicts King William III, when he was Prince of Orange. The military-minded William III is portrayed as the archetypal commander – serious and authoritative. He wears full armour of highly polished steel and holds a baton of command, and in the left margin is a helmet with a large scarlet plume and in the distance is a military engagement. Many portraits of William III show him in armour, a symbol of his kingship, often reflecting the style set by the Italian and Flemish artists Titian and Rubens in their depictions of kings and rulers ready for battle. Sir Peter Lely settled in England in c.1641, becoming the leading portrait painter, with many assistants and pupils in his studio practice. At the Restoration he was appointed Principle Painter by King Charles II. This painting is based on a type by Lely of c.1674, an earlier variant of which can be found in the Royal Collection, and this particular composition was favoured by Lely for his royal and ducal portraits. Five other versions are known to exist, not including one commissioned by James II from Lely's pupil, Willem Wissing, in 1685. The portraits became very popular and the studios...

Seller Details

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