

SA1146802

Mid-18th-Century French School, Portrait Of A Lady With Sapphires

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1146802

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 99 cm (39.0")

Width = 86 cm (33.9")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This charming mid-18th-century half-length French portrait depicts a lady wearing an olive green gown, together with a red cloak, and exquisite sapphire jewellery. Painted circa 1740, this piece can be contextualised by considering Louis Tocqué's (1696-1772) portrait of Marie Leczinska, Queen of France, as Royal commissions often set the bar in terms of fashion. Note the similarities of the neckline, use of jewellery, and hairstyle, with its single curl resting upon the left shoulder. The inclusion of blue sapphires is a particularly interesting one as these were a prized possession and demonstrated one's wealth, taste and loyalty in equal measure. During the 18th century, they were celebrated for their 'magical' properties, which protected against evil. With some believing they would change colour if the wearer lacked virtue. Evidently, our lady is a god-fearing exemplar of sound judgment. Once upon a time, this portrait probably hung within a palatial setting decorated with ornate Rococo furnishings. It was a period of ostentatious displays, gilt everything, and sumptuous curves - distinctly more elegant when compared to the drama and pomp of the Baroque period. Its ...

Seller Details

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