

**SA1163635**

Portrait of a Lady in a Green Dress & Pearl Jewellery c.1660; Studio of John Michael Wright (1617-1694), Oil on canvas painting

Price

**Sold**

**Item Reference: SA1163635**

**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

## Description

In this exquisite work, painted around the time of the Great Fire of London in 1666, a beautiful young woman is wearing a green dress over a white chemise and a russet-coloured scarf tied around her bosom. Prominently displayed is the accessory par excellence – pearls – an (almost) obligatory accompaniment in a female's attire in portraits since at least the 1630's. Here, they are used in her hair and as a single string around her neck. Although the sitter could afford pearls of her own, they were also common props in artist's studios. The attire and hairstyle help to place the portrait chronologically between the years 1660 and 1670 when they were both in fashion. The feigned stone cartouche of acanthus foliage surrounding the sitter was a popular motif at this time and was used by a large number of artists in England. The work is a fine example of English Baroque portraiture and it illustrates the painter's exceptional skill, individualised faces, and unique realism, particularly in the treatment of the face and the soft curls of hair that are defined with lightness and dexterity. Wright had acquired a considerable reputation as an artist and was painter at the E...

## Seller Details

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