

SA1202971

Portrait of Mary Churchill, Mrs Joseph Damer in a Yellow Dress and Blue Mantle, 1715; Jonathan Richardson the Elder (1667–1745), Oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1202971

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 144 cm (56.7")

Width = 121 cm (47.6")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This is a refined and compelling portrait, notable for its compositional balance, psychological presence, and excellent state of preservation. The paint surface remains fresh, allowing Richardson's subtle modelling—particularly in the flesh tones and drapery—to be appreciated with clarity. The sitter conveys quiet authority and cultivated poise, placing the work among the more distinguished female portraits of the early Georgian period. A contemporary inscription identifies the sitter as "Mary, Daughter of John Churchill Esq., wife of Joseph Damer Esq. Richardson Pinxt 1715." Mary Churchill was the daughter of John Churchill of Henbury, Dorset, part of a landed gentry family connected to the wider Churchill milieu. While distinct from the ducal line of Marlborough, the name carried considerable social weight, and the family occupied a meaningful position within the provincial and political society of the late Stuart and early Hanoverian periods. Her marriage to Joseph Damer (1676–1737), in December 1714, united this inherited status with a family rising rapidly through finance, landownership, and politics. Damer became a Member of Parliament and established significant ...

Seller Details

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