

SA1212840

Portrait painting of Charles Darqneuve by Michael Dahl, circa 1700

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1212840

Date of manufacture: 1700

Dimensions

Height = 89 cm (35.0")

Width = 77 cm (30.3")

Description

This fine portrait by Michael Dahl depicts Charles Darqneuve (often recorded as Dartiquenave), a figure of immense charisma and mystery in the courtly circles of late Stuart and early Georgian England. Presented in a half-length composition, the sitter wears a sumptuous brown velvet coat, the shimmering texture of which is a testament to Dahl's mastery of light and fabric. A deep crimson mantle is draped elegantly over his shoulder, a classical device signifying status and lineage. Darqneuve is crowned by a voluminous, finely rendered periwig, which frames a face of quiet dignity and intelligence. Charles Darqneuve has long been the subject of one of the most persistent traditions of the British Court—that he was the unacknowledged 'natural' son of King Charles II. While the 'Merry Monarch' officially recognized many of his children, Darqneuve remained a figure of the inner circle, possessing the social access and wealth befitting a royal descendant. Beyond his rumored parentage, Darqneuve was a celebrated bon vivant and a central member of the Kit-Cat Club, the most influential political and literary society of the 18th century. His refined tastes and legendary love fo...

Seller Details

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