

SA1224743

Portrait of a Gentleman in
Armour and Azure Cloak with
Diamond Clasp c.1700;
Attributed to Joseph Vivienne
(1657-1735), Oil on canvas

Price

GBP 8,950

| USD \$12,111 | EUR 10,472

Item Reference: SA1224743

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 91 cm (35.8")

Width = 76 cm (29.9")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

The sitter in this superb portrait is shown with the grandiloquence characteristic of the eighteenth-century French school of painting. The young nobleman has been portrayed wearing an ingeniously embellished French ceremonial armour, an azure cloak, and an abundance of cascading curls falling below his shoulders. This portrait proclaims to every onlooker that this is a superior being. The features of the sitter's face have been captured with great sensitivity, his confident gaze perhaps reflecting the near invincibility afforded by this steel suit. The flamboyance and penetrating sense of character, lending an air of noble expectancy to the composition, seems almost eclipsed by the artist's virtuosic handling of paint. It is easy to understand why many sitters from the upper echelons of society commissioned the artist to paint their portrait. Such fine and ornate armour was not actually used on a battlefield - its portrayal in portraiture at this time was largely used to symbolise the subject's wealth and status as well as a claim of succession to a chivalrous tradition. The style of hair and neckcloth help to date the portrait to the turn of the seventeenth cen...

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