

SA1227197**JOHN GREENHILL
(c.1644-1676) - A CAVALIER
HALF-LENGTH IN ARMOUR
AND A RED SASH.**

Price

GBP 14,000

| USD \$18,908 | EUR 16,374

Item Reference: SA1227197**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 88 cm (34.6")

Width = 74 cm (29.1")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Portrait of a cavalier half-length, facing right, clad in dark, highly reflective steel plate armour, a red sash and full bottomed wig. Greenhill uses his signature high-contrast lighting to make the metal of the armour gleam and to give the as yet unknown sitters face a highly three dimensional, theatrical presence. The light bouncing off the metal is softened by the sitters dark brown full-bottomed wig, and a vibrant silver fringed red sash winds through the portrait providing a rich, theatrical burst of colour. It is perhaps worth noting that during the 17th century, standardised military uniforms in the modern sense did not exist. Naval and military leaders as well as members of the aristocracy were depicted in polished plate armour combined with high-status court fashion (such as massive wigs and lace cravats) to denote their rank and authority. During the Restoration of King Charles II (starting in 1660), portraits like those painted by John Greenhill were far more than simple family keepsakes. They were crucial instruments of political propaganda, social climbing, and cultural rebuilding. Commissioning a portrait such as the one we see here enabled a gentleman to p...

Seller Details

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