

SA1230516

Portrait of Sir Robert Walpole (1676-1745), Britain's first Prime Minister from the studio of Jean Baptiste Van Loo (1684-1745) circa 1740.

Price

GBP 7,000

| USD \$9,544 | EUR 8,168

Item Reference: SA1230516

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 90 cm (35.4")

Width = 79 cm (31.1")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

Sir Robert Walpole is one of the most significant figures in British political history and renowned as the first Prime Minister. His political acumen resulted in the supremacy of the Whig party over a long period of time and considerable personal wealth which saw an outlet in a magnificent country house and art collection. Given this, Walpole became one of the first politicians to actively take an interest in his personal iconography. This was a time when political allegiances, and the visual representations of such, were as important as loyalty to the crown. As much as a war of words he realized the strength of portraiture in this battle. Walpole's preferred portrait painter was Charles Jervas, who, by no coincidence, was also painter in ordinary to the King. On his death in 1739 Walpole turned his favours to the Frenchman van Loo, who coincidentally also had royal patronage. By doing so he was keeping in favour with the monarch but also employing a very popular painter of the time to disseminate his image. Walpole has himself depicted in the black and gold robes of the Chancellor and the garter ribbon and star, indicating his membership of the Order of the Bath. It i...

Seller Details

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