

SA1232909

Portrait of Philadelphia Parker,
later Mrs Stephen Piper c.1690;
Follower of Pierre Mignard
(1612-1695), Oil on panel
Painting

Price

GBP 6,250

| USD \$8,521 | EUR 7,293

Item Reference: SA1232909

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 53 cm (20.9")

Width = 49 cm (19.3")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This beautifully preserved late seventeenth-century oil on panel is a refined small-scale portrait of Philadelphia Parker, later Mrs Stephen Piper, daughter of Sir Robert Parker, 1st Baronet of Ratton, Sussex, and Sarah Chute. Catalogued as Follower of Pierre Mignard, the work belongs to the elegant French court-beauty tradition of the late Stuart period, in which young women of rank were presented not in strict everyday dress, but in an idealised language of aristocratic grace: porcelain flesh, heightened rose colouring, a low white chemise, rose-red drapery, jewelled clasp, and abundant falling curls. The portrait is especially appealing because its sitter is not anonymous. Old labels on the reverse identify her as Philadelphia Parker, wife of Colonel Stephen Piper, and this traditional identification is supported by documentary evidence. Burke's Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies records Philadelphia as a daughter of Sir Robert Parker of Ratton and states that she married "Colonel Piper, of Essex." Her baptism is recorded at Willingdon, Sussex, on 10 December 1674, correcting the erroneous birth date preserved on one of the old labels. Her marriage is also confirmed by t...

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