

SA137439

**Portrait of a Young Girl c.1675;
by Mary Beale**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA137439

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in period carved and giltwood frame. A charming portrait of a young girl wearing a 'Roman' robe draped over her shoulder; this is not a garment she would ever have worn in her everyday life. Its purpose was to suggest the Classical world of Ancient Rome, so fashionable at the time. This was known as "elevating the sitter" and was thought to confer a timeless quality upon the portrait. The young lady is depicted within a beautifully painted feigned stone oval, bearing fruit. This motif was used so often by Beale as to be almost her trademark. It also was intended to be a Classical reminder. MARY BEALE (1633-1699) was born in Barrow, Suffolk, the daughter of John Cradock, a Puritan rector. Her mother, Dorothy, died when she was 10. Her father was an amateur painter, and member of the Painter-Stainers' Company, and she was acquainted with local artists, such as Nathaniel Thach, Matthew Snelling, Robert Walker and Peter Lely. In 1652, at the age of 18, she married Charles Beale, a cloth merchant from London - also an amateur painter. She became a semi-professional portrait painter in the 1650s and 1660s, working from her home, first in Covent Garden and lat...

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