

SA14175

SOLD....Portrait of Jenny Myddelton (?) and her Spaniel c.1675: Attributed to Mary Beale

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA14175

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in late 18th c. giltwood frame. This pleasing portrait of a young girl, thought to be Jenny Myddelton (1661-1740) shows the sitter and her dog in exactly the same pose (but reversed) as Sir Peter Lely had painted Mary of Modena, Duchess of York and later Queen of England. Jenny Myddelton's mother was Jane Needham, Mrs. Myddelton the famous Court beauty, mistress of the Duke of Montagu and later the Earl of Rochester. It was Jane's ambition that her daughter should ultimately become the mistress of Charles II - an event which would have ensured titles, estates and wealth for her. The plan, however, came to nought and Jenny married Charles May, Equerry to Queen Mary. The King Charles spaniel was very fashionable and may be seen as a symbol of fidelity and as an affectionate reminder of Charles II (and more broadly of the Stuart monarchy). Its inclusion was probably intended as a reflection of the sitter's grace and her fashionable - and flattering - taste in pets. In the background (not shown well on the photographs) can be seen what seems to be a fantasy view of the Myddelton's castles - Chirk and Ruthin. Chirk is one of the great border castles built in ...

Internal Ref: Jenny

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