

SA145712

Portrait of a Gentleman c.1640; Follower of Cornelius Johnson

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA145712****Date of manufacture: Before 1700**

Description

Oil on canvas in reproduction giltwood frame. A pleasing portrait of a gentleman aged 35 (faintly inscribed 'Aetatis su[ae] 35' to the upper right). The sitter has a calm, intelligent look and is dressed in an expensive embroidered silk doublet; he carries his gloves (a mark of wealth) and a silver-headed stick. "In the 1630s even a simple black suit of a quality fit for court wear cost as much as the rent of a London house for a year, clothes are vital signifiers of rank and wealth" 'Cavalier' by Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator of the Historic Royal Palaces. In a period when black clothing was the fashion artists strove to depict the different nuances and textures of the fabrics as convincingly as possible. They found that black is an ideal background with which to contrast the crisp white linen and rich lace and this dramatically accentuates the face and hand gestures. This extreme opposition between black and white is both austere and exciting, and is a characteristic feature of portraiture of this period. The portrait is contained within a feigned oval, typical of the style of Johnson and his Circle. CORNELIUS JOHNSON (Jonson, Jansen, Van Ceulen) 1593-1661 was bor...

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