

SA152966

**SOLD.....Portrait of a Lady
c.1675; Circle of Henri Gascar.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA152966

Date of manufacture:

Description

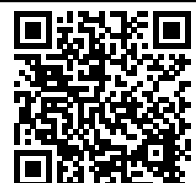
Oil on canvas in carved giltwood frame. The fashionably, and expensively, dressed young lady is depicted as Diana the Huntress, goddess of the hunt, moon and birthing. The sitter holds a bow and her hunting dogs are by her side. The celestial character of Diana is reflected in her connection with light, inaccessibility, virginity, and her preference for dwelling on high mountains and in sacred woods. She is seen as active in ensuring the succession of kings and in the preservation of humankind through the protection of childbirth. At this time in the 17th century to have oneself painted as a character from myth, legend or even as a saint was the height of fashion. HENRI GASCAR (1635 – 1 Jan 1701) (also Gascard, Gascars) was a French-born portrait painter who achieved artistic success in England during the reign of Charles II. He painted many leading ladies at court, including several of the King's mistresses. Gascar came to England about 1674, probably at the behest of Louise de Keroualle, Duchess of Portsmouth, Charles II's favourite mistress at that time. Gascar (or Gascard, as he seems to have spelt his name at first) was already known as a skillful portrait-painter...

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