

SA217788

Portrait of a Nobleman c. 1635;
attributed to Cornelius
Johnson.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA217788

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in giltwood period frame. This sensitive portrait of a gentleman, perhaps a nobleman, is typical of Johnson's best work. The sitter has a pensive appearance...looking at the artist, but his thoughts seem far away. CORNELIUS JOHNSON (Jonson, Jansen, Van Ceulen), 1593-1661, was one of the most gifted and prolific artists working in England in the 1620s and 1630s. Born in London but of Flemish and German extraction, he is thought to have trained as an artist in the northern Netherlands before establishing himself in England around 1618. This portrait was painted about 1635, at the height of his popularity, and three years after he was appointed as 'his Majesty's servant in ye quality of Picture drawer' to Charles I. It is a compelling example of Johnson's restrained, intimate portrayals for which he was renowned, and shows characteristic attention to detail in a style and pattern that Johnson had perfected by the 1630s for his half-length portraits. His portraits are very sensitive to character, beautifully drawn and meticulously painted. Johnson always preferred the feigned oval, suggestive of miniatures, of which his own began in 1625. In a period when bl...

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