

SA23192

SOLD...Portrait of Catherine of Braganza, wife of King Charles II c.1670; Studio or Circle of Lely

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA23192

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in a Late Georgian frame. A good portrait of Catherine of Braganza; a version 'in little' by Lely's Studio or Circle of a larger painting by Lely. An image of this painting can be seen at the Bridgeman Art Library, the portrait is now in a private collection. Lely's original drawing for this portrait is in the Hermitage State Museum, Russia and can be viewed online at the Hermitage Digital Collection. This richly decorated portrait of Charles II's queen is a fine example of Lely's ability to produce a vibrant yet functional courtly image. The material of the dress and the movement captured in the drapery as well the contrasting textures of carved gold and smooth silk are fine examples of the artistic mastery for which Lely was famous. As a royal portrait, this image and duplications of it would have been used by loyal followers of the Court who wished to demonstrate their allegiance. Catherine of Braganza (1638–1705) was a Portuguese princess and Queen consort of Charles II of England, whom she married in 1662, bringing Tangier and Bombay as part of her dowry. The marriage was childless and she had to tolerate the king's numerous and blatant infidelities....

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