

SA25106

SOLD....Portrait of Frances Lambert, Lady Middleton c.1690; Attributed Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA25106

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in modern gilt frame. A good quality portrait of the Court beauty Frances, Lady Middleton (c.1666-1694). A smaller version of this portrait is in the National Portrait Gallery Primary Collection (NPG 1761a. Given by Lord Weardale 1915). Frances Lambert was the daughter of John Lambert of Calton Hall, Calton, Yorkshire; she was the Lambert heiress, grand-daughter of Major-General John Lambert, the famous Civil War general. Frances was named after her grandmother. She married Sir John Middleton, 2nd Baronet, of Belsay Castle, Northumberland and thus the Lambert estates passed to the Middletons. Frances wears an 'undress' robe with no jewellery; she is depicted standing in a landscape and holds a rod which is probably a shepherd's crook. The reference is to the mythical realm of Arcady or Arcadia; a fashionable conceit of the time..a land where Love ruled and attractive young people wandered around a tamed landscape tending their perfectly groomed sheep... when they weren't writing poetry or playing flutes. Almost every lady of fashion was depicted as a shepherdess during this period. SIR GODFREY KNELLER (1646-1723) was the most distinguished painter of ba...

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Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273