

SA25236

SOLD.....Portrait of a Gentleman c. 1685; attributed to Mary Beale

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA25236

Date of manufacture:

Description

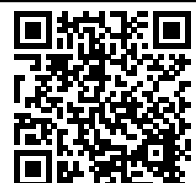
Oil on canvas in good quality 17th c. carved and giltwood frame. The sitter is depicted within Mrs. Beale's 'trademark' sculpted stone oval; he regards the viewer with a rather haughty look. His wig is in the height of fashion as is his exquisite lace cravat. The armour he wears may merely be a symbol of wealth and status or it might reveal that he earned his living fighting in one of the many European wars of the time. Many aristocrats and members of the gentry who found themselves short of money took part in these campaigns as mercenaries. It was considered that military service was the only option for the impecunious well-bred; to enter Trade was to put oneself beyond the pale...social death. MARY BEALE (1633-99) was born Mary Cradock, daughter of the Rev. John Cradock in Suffolk; in 1651 she married Charles Beale, Lord of the Manor of Walton, and moved to London. She was already known as a painter by 1654 and she was strongly influenced by Sir Peter Lely, Principal Painter to the King and famous Court and Society portraitist. Lely was a friend of Mrs. Beale and she sometimes copied his work and frequently used his poses in her portraits. She often depicts a stone...

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