

SA255094

Portrait of a Lady 1631, by Jan van Ravesteyn

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA255094

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Description

Oil on marouflaged panel in good quality 18th century carved and giltwood frame. Signed with initials and dated 'Anno. 1631. JVR' upper right. A superb portrait of a gently smiling young woman; she wears a pearl necklace, the essential accessory of the period, but modestly conceals it beneath her fine muslin. No such modesty however, for the magnificent jewellery she wears across her bosom. Her black clothing, fashionably slashed, is of the finest quality, beautifully decorated and contrasting with the exquisite white lace spread across her shoulders. In the work of great portraitists black is never dull, its pictorial potential is fully utilised. Black is an ideal background against which gold can stand out to dramatic effect and to contrast with the crisp white linen and lace. This extreme opposition between black and white is both austere and exciting, and is a characteristic feature of the 17th century Dutch portrait. The theory has been put forward that the sitter is Amalia van Solms, wife of the Dutch Stadtholder (and grandmother of England's William III), who was painted many times by many different artists. However, we consider this unlikely, as does Fred Mei...

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