

SA289650

**Portrait of a Gentleman c.
1635; Circle of Cornelius
Johnson.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA289650

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in superbly carved and gilded 17th century frame. This remarkably direct and sympathetic portrait is of a type quite unlike earlier works of this period. The usual static presentation has been abandoned in favour of one of one of baroque movement and depicts the unidentified gentleman as if he has just turned to gaze directly at the viewer. Unlike earlier portraits this man is informally dressed, wearing only a shirt and a dark fur cloak. A long section of his hair has been drawn into a 'lovelock', a Court fashion of the 1630s. A similar portrait of a different sitter, signed 'C.J. 1632' is in the Huntington Library and Art Collections, San Marino, California. CORNELIUS JOHNSON (Jonson, Jansen, Van Ceulen) 1593-1661, was born in London, the son of Flemish emigres. Although Waterhouse thought he was trained in Holland it seems more likely (as Collins Baker has it) that Marcus Gheeraerts was his master in London. Johnson is the most satisfying and 'English' of the portraitists working in England in the 1620s and 30s. He has a fine technique with a restrained and introspective style. His accurate portraits are never flattering but a sober and objective portra...

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