

SA297463

Portrait of a Gentleman c.1650;
Circle of Cornelius Johnson.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA297463

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Description

: Oil in canvas in good 17th c. style Dutch ripple-edged frame. Centre right the later applied signature and date 'C.J. 1653' An excellent portrait typical of Johnson and his Circle; expensively dressed but without pretension, the sitter looks not at us, but to one side as if lost in thought. He is depicted within the feigned oval often used by Johnson and his admirers. His silk clothing and fine lace are indications of his wealth and status and are carefully depicted. In a period when black clothing was the fashion artists strove to depict the different nuances and textures of the fabrics as convincingly as possible. They found that black is an ideal background with which to contrast the crisp white linen and rich lace and this dramatically accentuates the face and hand gestures. This extreme opposition between black and white is both austere and exciting, and is a characteristic feature of portraiture of this period. 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. J...

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