

**SA30407**

**SOLD...Portrait of Hortense Mancini, Duchesse Mazarin, c.1670; Circle of Jacob Ferdinand Voet**

Price

**Sold**

**Item Reference: SA30407**

**Date of manufacture:**

## Description

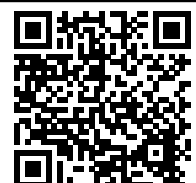
HORTENSE MANCINI, Duchesse Mazarin (1646 – 1699) Hortense Mancini, the Duchess Mazarin, was one of five Italian sisters all noted for their great beauty. Two of them became mistress to Louis XIV. Born in Rome in 1646, Hortense moved to France at an early age. Charles II proposed to her while there, but her uncle, Cardinal Mazarin, Chief Minister of France, did not think the exiled English king's prospects were good. In 1661 she was married at the age of fifteen to Armand-Charles de la Meilleraye but escaped her cruel and mentally unstable husband in 1668, seeking refuge in Rome with her sister Marie Mancini, Princess Colonna. Louis XIV declared himself her protector, but she left for England arriving at the Court of Charles II in 1675 and becoming his mistress shortly thereafter. After the death of Charles Hortense was well provided for by King James II, possibly because of her kinship with the new queen, Mary of Modena. She maintained a cultured 'salon' of all the learned men of London. Reputed to have had an affair with the famous poetess Aphra Behn as well as others of both sexes, Hortense was considered an adventuress. She was known for her compulsive gambling, her sk...

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