

SA308330

**Portrait of Lady Mary Villiers
17th c., after van Dyck.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA308330

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Description

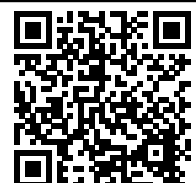
Oil on canvas in good quality 18th century carved and giltwood frame. LADY MARY VILLIERS, Lady Herbert and later Duchess of Lennox and Richmond (1622 – 1685), as St Agnes, after Sir Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641). The original portrait by Sir Anthony van Dyck is life size and in the Royal Collection. "A number of copies of this portrait survive, some indicating that the original version was once larger in size." quote from 'Van Dyck in Britain', edited by Karen Sharpe, published by the Tate. This is one of those, and the sitter fits within the composition much more comfortably than the now tightly cropped original. The original painting, in the Royal Collection, Windsor, was presumably painted for Charles I, who gave the sitter away at her wedding in 1637 to the Duke of Lennox. She is shown as St Agnes, the patroness of those engaged to be married. St Agnes is usually accompanied by a lamb, because of the similarity of her name to the Latin agnus, a lamb, but actually 'Agnes' comes from the Greek word for 'chaste'. Lady Mary Villiers was the daughter of 1st Duke of Buckingham and Katherine Manners and, raised with the royal children, she was a favourite of James I and...

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