

SA315807

Portrait of a Gentleman c.1695;
Circle of Nicolas de Largilliere.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA315807

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in reproduction frame. A beautiful and sensitive portrait, expertly painted, of a handsome young man. The pose suggests movement...the head turned as if to speak to a companion, whilst the hand points elegantly to the side. The hand, notoriously difficult for lesser artists, is superbly depicted. NICOLAS DE LARGILLIERE (1656 – 1746). Largillière's father, a merchant, took him to Antwerp at the age of three. As a boy, he spent nearly two years in London. Sometime after his return to Antwerp, a failed attempt at business led him to the studio of Goubeau. However, Largillière left at the age of eighteen and went to England, where he was befriended and employed by Sir Peter Lely for four years at Windsor, Berkshire. His painting caught the attention of Charles II, who wished to retain Largillière in his service, but the controversy aroused by the Rye House Plot against Roman Catholics alarmed Largillière, who left for Paris, where he was well received by the public as a painter. Upon ascending to the throne in 1685, James II requested Largillière to return to England. James II offered Largillière the office of Keeper of the Royal Collections, but he declined ...

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