

SA327216

Portrait of Mary Bagot, Countess of Falmouth and Dorset; after Lely.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA327216****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Description

Oil on canvas in early 18th century gilded frame. This lovely small painting is an early 19th century copy, reduced in size, of the life size original by Sir Peter Lely which is in The Royal Collection. The unknown artist has captured the spirit and style of the Lely original on a small scale...a rare talent. Lely's portrait forms one of the 'Windsor Beauties' series, a set of eleven portraits of celebrated women at the Restoration court painted by him. The series was apparently commissioned or at least assembled by Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, probably around 1662-5. Pepys recorded on 21 August 1668 that he 'did first see the Duke of York's room of pictures of some Maids of Honour, done by Lilly: good, but not like.' By describing the pictures as 'not like' Pepys is alluding to the often noted opinion that Lely flattered his subjects, and gave each portrait a similar languorous and 'sleepy eyed' air, said to have been influenced by the features of the noted court beauty Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, who was painted many times by Lely. MARY BAGOT, Countess of Falmouth and Dorset (1645 – 1679) was a British courtier. Her portrait by Lely was erroneously named ...

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