

SA352913

**Portrait of a Gentleman c.1740:
Attributed to Joseph Highmore.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA352913

Date of manufacture: 1750

Description

Oil on canvas in a good quality original giltwood period frame. JOSEPH HIGHMORE (c.1692 - 1780) was one of the most talented and versatile English portraitists of the eighteenth century. He first trained, for five years, as a lawyer but abandoned the practice and entered Sir Godfrey Kneller's Academy in London in 1713. When he began work as a professional artist in 1715 he found his natural ability to draw a sharp likeness soon won him a large clientele in the City, while his legal education and manner helped gain access to the nobility and gentry. Such was his success that the poet John Bunce wrote the following verse soon after the death of Kneller in 1723; "No more let Britain for her Kneller grieve In Highmore see a rising Kneller live Whose happy pencil claims as high a name If equal merit challenge equal fame." Although Highmore's style first followed that of Kneller (as did whole generations of early eighteenth century artists), he also assumed the more forceful and realistic characterisation of Hogarth. As a result, Highmore's portraits soon lost much of the Augustan stiffness of Kneller, instead showing a more subtle and fluid construction. This portrait ...

Internal Ref: 8882

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