

SA353270

Portrait of a Nobleman 1639; Follower of Cornelius Johnson.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA353270****Date of manufacture:**

Description

Oil on canvas in a fine late 17th century carved and giltwood frame. To the left, the sitters coat of arms and his age, 27, and the date 1639. As yet unidentified, the arms are those of a peer of the realm as witnessed by the helmet with a grille of gold. Unusually, the arms have supporters in the form of 'wildmen' or 'woodwose'; supporters are rare and a great honour in heraldry. "In the 1630s even a simple black suit of a quality fit for court wear cost as much as the rent of a London house for a year, clothes are vital signifiers of rank and wealth" ' Cavalier' by Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator of the Historic Royal Palaces. In a period when black clothing was the fashion artists strove to depict the different nuances and textures of the fabrics as convincingly as possible. They found that black is an ideal background with which to contrast the crisp white linen and rich lace and this dramatically accentuates the face and hand gestures. This extreme opposition between black and white is both austere and exciting, and is a characteristic feature of portraiture of this period. CORNELIUS JOHNSON (Jonson, Jansen, Van Geulen) 1593-1661 was born in London, the son of F...

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