

SA366883

Portrait of a Gentleman c.
1590, probably Johan
Upchieris; Circle of Adriaen
Thomasz. Key.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA366883

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in reproduction 17th century frame. This striking portrait from Norris Castle on the Isle of Wight has been traditionally called 'The Earl of Warwick', but this is unlikely. In the top left hand corner is the inscription "Johan Upchieris", probably the name of the sitter though research has brought up no such name. The gentleman wears a steel gorget below his ruff...the badge of office of a military officer. This is a fine portrait; sensitive and penetrating with a real sense of the personality of the sitter. ADRIAEN THOMASZ. KEY (C.1544 - after 1589) Scholars know little of Key's background, but he was probably portraitist Willem Key's pupil. Key was either distantly related to Willem or simply took his teacher's name. Key became a master in Antwerp's Guild of Saint Luke in 1568, and his dated paintings are known from 1572 onwards. After Catholic Spain completed its reconquest of the Netherlands by seizing Antwerp in 1585, Key remained registered as a Calvinist yet continued working and teaching pupils. There is no record of him after 1589. Key is most admired for his portraits and for his power of objective observation. In his lifetime, he must have b...

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