

SA379710

Portrait of a Lady c.1680; Attributed to Mary Beale.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA379710****Date of manufacture: Before 1700**

Dimensions

Height = 94 cm (37.0")

Width = 81 cm (31.9")

Depth = 6.5 cm (2.6")

Description

Oil on canvas in a reproduction frame. This is a charming portrait of a handsome woman of mature years; mature she may be, but she is very aware of the high fashion of the time. The very latest hair style, the plunging neckline and of course, that hallmark of the Baroque, pearls. The sitter is depicted within a feigned carved stone oval that was used often by Lely. The sitter, her identity forgotten, has for years been known as 'The Irish Lady'...why so called has also been forgotten! MARY BEALE (1633-1699) was born in Barrow, Suffolk, the daughter of John Cradock, a Puritan rector. Her mother, Dorothy, died when she was 10. Her father was an amateur painter, and member of the Painter-Stainers' Company, and she was acquainted with local artists, such as Nathaniel Thach, Matthew Snelling, Robert Walker and Peter Lely. In 1652, at the age of 18, she married Charles Beale, a cloth merchant from London - also an amateur painter. She became a semi-professional portrait painter in the 1650s and 1660s, working from her home, first in Covent Garden and later in Fleet Street. Mary Beale was not the only female painter in England, but her name alone has survived as that of the on...

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