

**SA395966**

**Portrait of Margaret Neville;  
attributed to Henri Gascar.**

Price

**Sold**

**Item Reference: SA395966**

**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

## Description

Oil on canvas in a fine carved and giltwood 18th century frame. Traditionally called Margaret Brooke, nee Neville, it seems more likely that the sitter was perhaps a daughter of Margaret. Margaret was born in 1618 and died in 1673. Her clothes, hairstyle and the working life of the artist Henri Gascars do not fit these dates; this portrait was painted c1680. Lower left, the later inscription, 'Margaret Brooke Wife to/Thomas Brooke Esqr. and/Daughter of Sir Thomas Neville KB./eldest son of Henery 7th Ld/Abergavenny' Margaret Neville was the daughter of Sir Thomas Neville KB, and married Thomas Brooke Esq. In this delightful portrait, probably painted for a betrothal, the sitter holds flowers (peonies, which signify sincerity) and with a number of them in her lap. These latter signify her youth and future fruitfulness...the prime task of any aristocratic wife was to bear children, preferably a male heir. In her hair are some jasmine flowers, signifying amiability of character. HENRI GASCAR (1635 – 1701) (also Gascard, Gascars) was a French-born portrait painter who achieved artistic success in England during the reign of Charles II. He painted many leading ladies at court.

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## Seller Details

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