

SA400711

Portrait of Mary, Princess of Orange (later Mary II), after Lely.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA400711

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Description

Oil on canvas in reproduction frame. The sitter within a feigned stone oval. This little portrait, late 17th or 18th century, is a reduced detail of a large three quarter length painted by Sir Peter Lely in 1677. Mary (1662-1694) was the elder daughter of James, Duke of York (later James II) and his first wife, Anne Hyde. She was married to her cousin William III of Orange at the age of fifteen. When her Catholic father James was ousted at the Revolution of 1688 the Protestant Mary and her husband returned to England from Holland and they were jointly crowned Mary II and William III in 1689. The original of this portrait was painted at the time of her marriage in 1677. A number of versions of this portrait exist including one in the Royal Collection and one in the National Portrait Gallery. The rich and daring colour scheme with its clashing orange and red testifies to Lely's skill as a colourist. The choice of orange, an unusual colour in Lely's portraits is perhaps a reference to Mary's new title, Princess of Orange. SIR PETER LELY (1618 - 1680) was the most important portraitist in the reign of Charles II, although he had painted portraits throughout the Commonwealth...

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