

SA401011

Portrait of Mary Sackville,
Countess of Dorset; after
Kneller. 18th century.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA401011

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Description

Oil on canvas in a fine quality William Kent giltwood frame. The British Palladian or 'Kent' frame, with its distinctive outset corners, is called after the architect and designer William Kent (1685-1748); he derived it from the late Mannerist work of Michelangelo, interpreted by Palladio and Inigo Jones. Kent, however, used it as part of a coherent interior, where for the first time architecture, fittings and furniture were designed as a single whole. The painting and its frame were completely integrated with the overall setting. The 'Kent' frame was decorated with strong classical mouldings, such as egg-&-dart, ribbon-&-stave and Greek fret. This lovely portrait is a head and shoulders version of a large three quarter length of Mary, painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller for Queen Mary II for her collection known as The Hampton Court Beauties. LADY MARY COMPTON, later MARY SACKVILLE, COUNTESS OF DORSET (1669-1691) was Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen. Her father was James Compton, 3rd Earl of Northampton (1622-1681), and her mother was the Hon. Mary Noel (died 1719). In 1685 the sitter married Charles Sackville, 6th Earl of Dorset (1637-1705) KG. They lived at Compt Hall,...

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