

SA402381

Portrait of a Young Lady 1614;
by Laurenz Strauch.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA402381

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Description

Oil on canvas in a reproduction frame of period type. Inscribed 'SUAE 22, 1614' (Aged 22), and signed with a monogram LS. In this lovely and poignant portrait, the young woman is heavily pregnant and looks out with a calm expression. Childbirth was a dangerous time for both the woman and the child, deaths were frequent and it is known that some portraits were commissioned in case the sitter died. As Lady Massingberd wrote to her daughter "Ye safe dylevery in child bearth is God's one work. Pray spare as much time as you can for meddetation and prayer to acquaint yrself with God." Such may have been the thoughts of this sitter. These pregnancy portraits are very rare, for instance, "there are no examples of pregnant women in Dutch portraiture" (Marieke de Winkel 'The Interpretation of Dress in Vermeer's Paintings'). Portraits in other European countries did, as this one does, occasionally show the sitter as obviously and indisputably with child, but they are uncommon. In England, in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, they can be more frequently seen, but still only a handful. In this portrait the young woman's right hand rests protectively over her bump. This is a ...

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