

SA417939

**Portrait of an Officer, c.1725,
by William Aikman.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA417939

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 145 cm (57.1")

Width = 122 cm (48.0")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

Oil on canvas in a fine carved and giltwood period frame. An excellent portrait of an officer, in a pose much favoured for military men at this time. (We also have in stock a portrait by Kneller of an older officer in a very similar pose.) It is typical of Aikman that we have a real sense of the sitter as an individual, not just as 'An Officer'. Despite the fortress in the background, the breastplate and sword the sitter conveys a relaxed informal air, he has a slight smile and wears a velvet coat rather than the usual broadcloth favoured by the military. A rather intimate, human, touch is how Aikman has shown the slight stubble on the sitter's head where his head has been shaved to let his wig sit more easily. WILLIAM AIKMAN (1682-1731) was a Scottish portrait painter, only son of the Laird of Cairney, Forfar where he was born. He developed a passion for painting and studied under Medina, sold the family estate and went to Rome in 1707 for three years. He settled in Edinburgh in 1712 and was an excellent taker of likenesses, the best Edinburgh portraitist of his time, painting most of the nobility, gentry and lawyers. In 1723, encouraged by the Duke of Argyll, he mov...

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