

SA423977

Portrait of Elizabeth, Countess
of Carnarvon c.1650;
Attributed to David Des
Granges.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA423977

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 147 cm (57.9")

Width = 120 cm (47.2")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

Oil on canvas in old reproduction frame of the correct period type. The Countess is depicted in the mythical realm of Arcady, a fashionable conceit of the time. At the centre of Arcady is the Garden of Love where a figure of Cupid sits atop a fountain. Elizabeth places her hand in the water...this is a motif much used by Van Dyck and Lely and it makes an allusion to her potential as a wife and mother, recalling Proverbs, chapter 5, verse 18 "Let thy fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of thy youth". The lamb represents innocence, gentleness, patience and humility....and is, of course, an emblem of Christianity. There is little doubt that this portrait represents a celebration of Elizabeth's forthcoming marriage. ELIZABETH CAPEL (1633-1678) was baptised on 4 June 1633 at Hadham Parva, Hertfordshire, England. She was the daughter of Arthur Capel, 1st Baron Capel of Hadham, and Elizabeth Morrison. She married Charles Dormer, 2nd Earl of Carnarvon, son of Robert Dormer, 1st Earl of Carnarvon and Lady Anna Sophia Herbert, before 1653. Her father was executed by Parliament for Royalist activities during the Civil War in 1649. The Carnarvons and the Capels we...

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