

SA424627

**Portrait of a Young Boy c 1680,
by Mary Beale.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA424627

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 86 cm (33.9")

Width = 72 cm (28.3")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

Oil on canvas in period carved and giltwood frame. A charming portrait of a young boy, typical of Beale's sensitive approach to painting children. As here, Beale invariably accords her portraits of children with tenderness and a distinctively sympathetic characterisation. The sitter is almost certainly the brother of the portrait of the girl by Beale also on this website. MARY BEALE (1633-1699) was born in Barrow, Suffolk, the daughter of John Cradock, a Puritan rector. Her mother, Dorothy, died when she was 10. Her father was an amateur painter, and member of the Painter-Stainers' Company, and she was acquainted with local artists, such as Nathaniel Thach, Matthew Snelling, Robert Walker and Peter Lely. In 1652, at the age of 18, she married Charles Beale, a cloth merchant from London - also an amateur painter. She became a semi-professional portrait painter in the 1650s and 1660s, working from her home, first in Covent Garden and later in Fleet Street. Mary Beale was not the only female painter in England, but her name alone has survived as that of the only woman to make a successful living, and to enjoy a flourishing practice as a portraitist. The family moved to ...

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Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273