

SA43100

**SOLD....Portrait of a Gentleman
c.1675; Circle of Mary Beale**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA43100

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas of a gentleman, depicted within a feigned oval architectural cartouche, in a gilt frame. MARY BEALE (1633-99) was born Mary Cradock, daughter of the Rev. John Cradock in Suffolk; in 1651 she married Charles Beale, Lord of the Manor of Walton, and moved to London. She was already known as a painter by 1654 and she was strongly influenced by Sir Peter Lely, Principal Painter to the King and famous Court and Society portraitist. Lely was a friend of Mrs.Beale and she sometimes copied his work and frequently used his poses in her portraits. She often depicts a stone oval heavily sculpted with fruit or flowers. The sitter's eyes tend to be almond shaped and her colouring pure and rich. It was most unusual for a woman to take up a professional career as an artist at this time, but her studio thrived; her most active period was the 1670s and early '80s. Mary Beale died at Pall Mall and is buried in St. James's Church, Piccadilly. SIZE: 36 x 30.5 inches inc. frame. 30.25 x 25.5 inches (canvas) PROVENANCE: Collection of the late Dr. William Lindsay Gordon.

Internal Ref: 8502

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