

SA447455

Portrait of Miss Kathleen Bell 1936, by Bertram Priestman R.A.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA447455****Date of manufacture: 1930**

Dimensions

Height = 109 cm (42.9")

Width = 101 cm (39.8")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

Oil on canvas is an elaborate gilt period frame. (several small damages) Signed and dated bottom left. The sitter is Kathleen Bell, known as 'Billy'. The Bells are an old family and mainly originate in the North of England though they have spread far and wide over the centuries. This charming portrait is absolutely typical of its period, especially in the colour of the dress, which was extremely fashionable. Until now the painting has spent its life under glass, so has needed no cleaning or restoration. Below is a letter I received from a member of the family: "Billy (Kathleen) was born to parents who emigrated to South Africa from northern England. She was the brightest and best looking of three girls. Her father George Bell was not very dynamic and held down a dull job as a bank manager before returning to England with the adult girls. Two went to Art School and eventually married into financial security. My husband being the only descendant. Billy seems to have lost her man in the war and started her career as a secretary/p.a in the Ministry of Defence (Naval Intelligence). She was the only sister who worked for her living, all her life and had little to s...

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