

SA453142

Portrait of a Lady c.1720,
French; Follower of Hyacinth
Rigaud (1659-1743)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA453142

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 106 cm (41.7")

Width = 92 cm (36.2")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

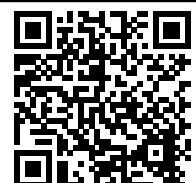
Description

Oil on canvas. Beautifully and meticulously rendered throughout most notably in the embroidered silk dress, crimson wrap, and pearl necklace. The sitter is most likely a member of the French Court and also bears a striking resemblance to Marie Angélique de Scorailles, Duchesse de Fontanges (1661-1681) who created the 'fontange coiffure' hairstyle as seen in this portrait. The Duchesse was a mistress of King Louis XIV for two years from 1679. At first the style consisted of a small pile of curled hair with ribbons and bows just above the forehead, small curls over the temples called "confidants," with long curls falling over one shoulder. Eventually it grew to such a height that a wire support was necessary and incorporated a starched linen frill in the front. In England it became known as a 'top-knot' and was worn by ladies of all ranks including Queen Mary II. The beautiful silk fabric of the dress is decorated with a floral motif (France was the center for lace-making and silk and brocade manufacturing and its many goods were in high demand in other European countries). Rigaud is considered one of the most famous portrait painters of the French classical period....

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