

SA459382

**Portrait of a Young Girl c.1680;
Attributed to Mary Beale.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA459382

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Dimensions

Height = 76 cm (29.9")

Width = 61 cm (24.0")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

Oil on canvas in reproduction parcel gilt 'cassetta' frame. A charming portrait of an attractive young sitter depicted as a 'shepherdess' (albeit one wearing silks, pearls and jewels) in the mythical realm of Arcady (or Arcadia), a fashionable conceit of the times which also featured in the literature and poetry of the period. Arcady was a land where beauty and innocence thrived. The girl holds a shepherd's crook of the Continental type; real shepherds would use the shaped end to scoop up and throw small stones to send the sheep in a chosen direction. 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 p...

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