

SA465055

Portrait of Viscount Stafford,
English 18th Century; After
Anthony Van Dyke
(1599-1641). Grand scale work

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA465055

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 128 cm (50.4")

Width = 119 cm (46.9")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

Oil on canvas. An exquisite and impressive large scale three quarter length portrait of the martyr William Howard, 1st Viscount Stafford (1614-1680). Painted in a grand style later known as the Van Dyke style, the artist excelled at portraying psychological depth and animation. The face, hand and attire are superb quality. The composition itself is restrained and does not include the grandiose classical architecture and military symbolism – instead concentrating on a sensitive portrayal and likeness of this aristocratic gentleman. The work is after Anthony Van Dyke's portrait in the collection of the Marquis of Bute. William Howard was a supporter of the Royalist cause before being implicated in the Popish Plot and executed for treason. He is regarded as a Roman Catholic martyr. He was fifth son of Thomas, earl of Arundel and Surrey and his wife Lady Alatheia Talbot. William grew up in an Anglican household but was undoubtedly exposed to Roman Catholic influences as almost all of the Howard family remained loyal to the Catholic faith even when they conformed outwardly to the Established Church. His grandfather, Philip Howard, 20th Earl of Arundel had been imprison...

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