

SA466824

**Portrait of a Gentleman c.1720;
by Jonathan Richardson.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA466824

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 93 cm (36.6")

Width = 79 cm (31.1")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

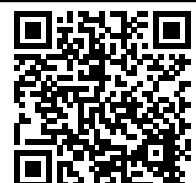
Oil on canvas in a period ebonised and gilt frame. The sitter, expensively bewigged and dressed of a gentleman at leisure, looks steadfastly at the viewer. He seems at ease, and his build and ruddy complexion indicate a man who enjoyed good living. Although not depicting the most handsome of men, this is a superb quality portrait. The face is beautifully painted and a strong sense of the character of the sitter is present; absolutely typical of Richardson's best and most mature English style. JONATHAN RICHARDSON (1665–1745) sometimes called "the Elder" to distinguish him from his son) was an English artist, collector of drawings, and writer on art, working almost entirely as a portrait-painter in London. Richardson was born in 1666, but when he was about seven his father died and his mother married again. Richardson became a scrivener's apprentice, but he was released early when his master retired. Richardson was lucky enough to be taken on as a painting apprentice by John Riley. He learnt the art of portraiture from Riley whilst living at his master's house. Richardson's wife was Riley's niece. Richardson was even more influential as a writer than as a painter, acco...

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Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273