

SA481034

Portrait of Marquise de
Maintenon, French c.1700;
Follower of Pierre Mignard
(1612-1695)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA481034

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 86 cm (33.9")

Width = 73 cm (28.7")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

The artist has modelled their subject with a slight turn of the head creating a sense of intimacy and elegance. By tradition the sitter is Françoise d'Aubigné, known as Madame de Maintenon, the second wife of King Louis XIV of France. She is sumptuously dressed in a russet gown with collarette, an azure silk mantle, and her hair is partially covered by a transparent black wrap, as she was often depicted with. France during this period was the leading exponent of fashion and the arts to the rest of Europe and the fashions arose from the French court itself. A feature of this oil on canvas portrait is the stunning original 17th century carved and gilded wood frame, decorated with acorns and acanthus leaves. The frame is a work of art in its own right. The last great female presence in the life of Louis XIV, Mme de Maintenon was first brought to the king's attention by Mme de Montespan. Serving at first as governess to Louis XIV's illegitimate children away from the prying eyes of the court, she later married the king in secret. Eventually Mme de Maintenon deposed her rival and became the dominant female force at Versailles, where she imposed a new sense of order and pr...

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