

SA509456

Portrait of a Gentleman c.1620;
Studio of Michiel Jansz van
Mierevelt (1567-1641)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA509456

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 84 cm (33.1")

Width = 68 cm (26.8")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This magnificent portrait depicts a handsome gentleman wearing an elaborate lace collar and sumptuous embroidered black satin coat. The extraordinary costume with its shimmering quality and costly fabric is of the highest quality and de rigueur for the upper class. This is indicative of the sitter's wealth and speaks of the status of this gentleman in Dutch society. The demand for portraits in the Netherlands was great in the 17th century and Michiel Jansz van Mierevelt was the most productive and successful portraitist in Delft. This portrait was painted circa 1620 when Mierevelt was working in Delft and in The Hague at the request of the Court. It is a fine example in its depiction of the sitter's character and is very engaging. Dutch society during this period were very conscious of material excesses and the attire in portraits reflected this - black was a predominant colour for clothing (although it has to be said that this was not the dominant colour for everyday apparel). Artists could therefore not rely solely on striking colours to create excitement. What they did have was an array of stunning black fabrics and a wide range of textures and so they turned t...

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