

SA543486

Portrait of a Lady c.1665; Attributed to Jacob Huysmans.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA543486****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 162 cm (63.8")

Width = 141 cm (55.5")

Depth = 13 cm (5.1")

Description

Oil on canvas in a magnificent 19th century frame. The frame bears a gilt label attributing the portrait to Sir Peter Lely; in the 19th century many portraits were miss-attributed to Lely and Kneller. Fine artists like Huysmans, Dahl, Richardson etc were forgotten until later scholarship and research 'rediscovered' them. The sitter, more than likely a lady of Queen Catherine's court, is depicted in the mythical realm of Arcady, a fashionable conceit of the time. Arcady, or Arcadia, was a mythological land, home of the god Pan, where love and peace reigned. At the centre of Arcady is the Garden of Love where a figure of Cupid sits atop a fountain. The lady's dog, a King Charles spaniel very fashionable at the time, laps at the water. The fountain makes an allusion to her potential as a wife and mother, recalling Proverbs, chapter 5, verse 18 "Let thy fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of thy youth". The spaniel, as well as being a fashionable accessory, also represents faith and trust. There is little doubt that this portrait represents a celebration of the young lady's forthcoming marriage. JACOB HUYSMANS (c.1633–1696) was a Flemish portrait painter. He move...

Internal Ref: 9061

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