

SA546964

PORTRAIT of the Honourable
Mrs Henry Arundell c.1660;
Circle of John Michael Wright
(1617-1694)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA546964

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 93 cm (36.6")

Width = 81 cm (31.9")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

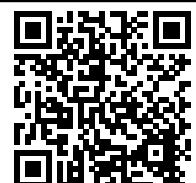
Description

This exquisite work is an accomplished example of the type of portrait in vogue in England during the last half of the 17th century. The painting abounds with ingenious flourishes and demonstrations of the painter's skill. The sitter, a paragon of the upper echelons of society, is said to be Mary Scrope, the Honourable Mrs Henry Arundell (c.1634-1721) who in 1665 married Hon. Henry Arundell. The couple had three sons but tragically they all died young. The Catholic family of Arundell of Wardour fought on the side of Charles I in the First English Civil War. Her husband's father was Henry Arundell, 3rd Baron Arundell of Wardour (c.1607/8-1694), Peer of England, and the most famous of the Lords Arundell of Wardour; he served as Lord Privy Seal and Lord High Steward, and Count of the Holy Roman Empire. The attire is of the finest shot silk and the jewellery emphasise the fact that this is an individual of wealth and privilege. The accessory par excellence – pearls – is worn in abundance, as a necklace, earrings, in her hair and on her sleeves. This obligatory accompaniment was popular since the 1630s. In 1665 the diarist Samuel Pepys accounted the purchase of a pearl ne...

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