

SA557188

Portrait of a Noblewoman, Possibly Mary, Queen of Scots; Manner of Francois Clouet.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA557188****Date of manufacture: Before 1700**

Dimensions

Height = 40 cm (15.7")

Width = 34 cm (13.4")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

Oil on oak panel, 17th/early 18th century in a period frame. This exquisite small portrait, painted with a miniaturist's skill, has a very intimate quality; the sitter's eyes meet the viewer's in a direct and confidential way. Painted in the 17th or early 18th century this portrait is in the manner of Clouet in the 1560s. There are several portraits of Mary, Queen of Scots by him which are very similar both in technique and the appearance of the sitter. It is likely that the portrait was painted in the 17th century when the Stuarts, Mary's descendants, were on the throne and Mary's image was revamped from traitor to martyr. Mary had been called an adulteress and traitor by the English and was beheaded for plotting to assassinate her cousin Elizabeth I, but under the Stuarts she was presented as a beautiful and religious princess unjustly executed for her Catholic faith. Of course, it may also be that the sitter was a noblewoman who looked like Mary. There are so many images claimed to be of her and so many artists depicted her in their own way...half the portraits seem to bear no resemblance to each other, especially the 18th and 19th century ones. However, regardless...

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Seller Details

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