

SA55792

**SOLD...Portrait of Nell Gwyn
c.1675; Studio of Lely**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA55792

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in fine carved and giltwood 'Lely' frame. SIR PETER LELY (1618 - 1680) was the dominant Court and Society portraitist of the reign of Charles II. He was made Principal Painter to the King in 1661, and knighted in 1680. Many portraits of unknown Restoration ladies are said to be Nell Gwyn, on no grounds at all. It is rare for one to be unquestionably of the actress, as this one is. This studio work is identical to the prime version painted by Lely and formerly at Parham Park, Collection of the Hon. Clive Gibson, and sold at Sotheby's 15 June 2000 for £57,500. Portraits of prominent subjects of their day, especially Royal and Court sitters, were in much demand after the Restoration. Lely's many talented studio assistants, among them Greenhill and Lankrink, were regularly occupied in making highly accomplished copies under Lely's supervision. Nell looks confidently at the viewer, her decolletage very revealing, as was the custom for portraits of mistresses. To her right, in an urn, grows Spanish Jasmine which signifies sensuality, and was famous for its exotic heady perfume which is especially intoxicating at night....all very appropriate. NELL GWYN ...

Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273