

SA618822

Portrait of Isabella, Duchess of Grafton (c.1688-1723) circa 1691; Studio of Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA618822

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 155 cm (61.0")

Width = 129 cm (50.8")

Depth = 8.5 cm (3.3")

Description

Portrait of Isabella, Duchess of Grafton (c.1688-1723) circa 1691 Studio of Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723) This magnificent large-scale swagger portrait is a repetition from Kneller's studio of which the prototype was amongst the series of "beauties" at Hampton Court. Painted circa 1691, its extravagant grand manner is distinctive of Kneller's work from this period, where the use of full-length swaggering poses and a heightened sense of movement and physical presence were employed. In 1690 Mary II commissioned Kneller to paint a series, in Defoe's words, 'of the principal Ladies attending upon her Majesty, or who were frequently in her Retinue'. The set of eight portraits were aptly named The Hampton Court Beauties and were the most glamorous ladies from the court of William III. Still to this day they remain at Hampton Court. According to Horace Walpole Mary II was advised by Lady Dorchester against the idea of having the most beautiful of her court painted: 'Madam, if the King were to ask for the portraits of all the wits in his court, would not the rest think he called them fools?'. The portrait of the Duchess of Grafton, painted January of 1690, the same year...

Seller Details

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