

SA626798

An early 17th century portrait of ST Agatha

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA626798****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 63 cm (24.8")

Width = 56 cm (22.0")

Depth = 2.5 cm (1.0")

Description

An early 17th century old master oil on canvas portrait of Saint Agatha of Sicily. The portrait is well painted depicting Saint Agatha wearing extravagant attire and holding a palm branch in her right hand and in her left hand a silver Tazza displaying her severed breasts. The portrait is in need of restoration, the canvas has paint losses and has started to come away from the stretcher and at some stage the canvas has been nailed to the stretcher. The bottom rail of the stretcher frame has snapped. This is a lovely interesting painting and is in completely untouched country house condition. Saint Agatha of Sicily - Saint Agatha died for her virginity. She was not unique in this. Having espoused herself to Christ by a vow of virginity, she refused to marry. For this, the judge Quintian, who wanted to marry her himself, declared her a Christian. Owing to the persecution of Decius (249-251) then raging, this public accusation meant apostasy or martyrdom. When the virgin would not be overcome by threats and torture, she was given, and chose, the grace of martyrdom. One detail of her martyrdom was the cutting off of her breasts (or one breast, depending on the account...)

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