

SA654167

Portrait of a Captain Sir John Munden (c.1645-1719) c.1692;
John Closterman (1660-1711)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA654167

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 111 cm (43.7")

Width = 100 cm (39.4")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

The sitter in this portrait is shown with the grandiloquence characteristic of Closterman's portraits. The subject has been elegantly portrayed wearing scarlet, the colour of distinction; the flamboyance and penetrating sense of character seems almost eclipsed by the skilful handling of paint through the face and the full-bottomed periwig. It is a portrait instinct with life, an effect enhanced by the alert expression of the head and the lively glance out of and beyond the picture space, the sitter's strong sense of character almost lending an air of noble expectancy to the composition. The sitter is said to be Captain Sir John Munden (c.1645-1719) who was a rear-admiral in the Royal Navy. In the right background his ship the 'Lennox' is shown engaged at the battle of Barfleur in 1692. The portrait was painted in the 1690's and was most likely intended to mark this occasion. Sir John was born around 1645, the younger son of Richard Munden (1602-1672), a ferryman of Chelsea, and his wife Elizabeth (1608-1694). He was appointed second lieutenant aboard the St David on 30 November 1677, and served aboard her in the Mediterranean until 1680, under the command of his ol...

Seller Details

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