

SA665395

**Portrait of a Young Gentleman
c.1685; Circle of Sir Godfrey
Kneller (1646-1723)**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA665395

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 97 cm (38.2")

Width = 80 cm (31.5")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This exquisite portrait passed through the Mellish family, family seat Blyth Hall, by direct descent for circa 330 years. The Mellish family resided at Blyth Hall, an ancient building that is believed to have been in the hands of just three families since the Norman Conquest, and the ancient Hodsock Priory. It is a superb example of English portraiture and notable for its depiction of the garments and the lace, of which has been carried to such precision, and one of the finest examples. The work is presented in a fine elaborately carved and gilded period frame. Observing the technical virtuosity of this artist is quite astounding. In this exquisite portrait, as much attention has been paid to the sitter's facial features as to the expensive fabrics. It is remarkable for the soft modelling of the face and the ingenious flourishes, such as the very fine eyelashes. The treatment of the sumptuous crimson wrap is superb but the pièce de résistance is the depiction of the lace cravat – it is amongst the finest depictions of lace that you will see and is the work of one of the best drapery painters of the day. It is interesting to acknowledge that these types of lace cravat...

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