

SA6964

SOLD....Portrait of Mary Dowdeswell c.1695; by Michael Dahl

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA6964

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in feigned oval within rare William Kent architectural carved and gilt frame c.1740, the sides decorated with finely carved oakleaves and acorns. The reverse of the frame bears old dealer's labels with the name of the sitter, the provenance and an erroneous attribution to Highmore. The DOWDESWELLS are an old Gloucestershire family where they lived at Pull Court near Tewksbury from the 15th to the 19th century. In the 19th c. the house was sold and is now a school. MICHAEL DAHL (1659-1743) was born in Stockholm; after studying in Paris, Rome and Frankfurt he settled in London in 1689. He soon became the best patronised portrait painter in England after Kneller. He was much employed at the Court painting many portraits; a great patron of the 1690s was the Duke of Somerset, for whom he painted the series of portraits of Court ladies known as the 'Petworth Beauties'. His style is extremely close to Kneller but his interpretation of character is less brash and more human. He has a quieter but somehow more understanding appeal to character which relies on its own integrity to make its impact; his works are of a real distinction. At his best he was a finer port...

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