

SA699106

**Portrait of Louise de
Lévis-Leran c.1662; Circle of
Abraham van der Tempel
(c.1622-1672)**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA699106

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 144 cm (56.7")

Width = 112 cm (44.1")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This large scale portrait depicting a young girl in an Arcadian setting is an exquisite example of mid-17th century portraiture. The sitter is Louise de Lévis and the artist has portrayed her wearing classical garments and placing her in an Italianate setting complete with dense woods and a fountain with a putto, thereby drawing from the tradition of pastoral literature, which by the time the portrait was painted was extremely popular. All educated individuals in the 17th century were familiar with Latin and Greek pastoral poetry, and the mythological world of Arcady was an idyll that the ladies and gentlemen of the Court could inhabit in the guise of shepherds and shepherdesses. The pastoral tradition in literature and plays had been embraced by an aristocratic class since classical times. Life in the country was perceived as peaceful, contemplative and free of worry of hardships, a time to pursue pleasure. To be painted in such a manner created a tangible expression of power and wealth. By the 1640's familiarity with the pastoral was so ingrained that the mere inclusion of such elements as shimmering gowns, plumed hats, flower garlands, and antique buildings suggested...

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