

SA708204

Pair of Portraits of a Lady and a Gentleman, Attributed to William Wissing (1656-1687)

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA708204****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 96.5 cm (38.0")

Width = 84 cm (33.1")

Depth = 5.8 cm (2.3")

Description

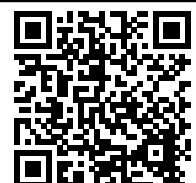
Oils on canvas in fine period carved and giltwood frames. The identities of this handsome couple have been lost during the 40 or more years they spent languishing in a Yorkshire attic; clearly people of considerable wealth, they could afford a top quality artist to depict them. At first I thought of Mary Beale as the probable artist, but after consultation with art historian Adam Busiakiewicz, I am in agreement with his view:- "Very beautiful indeed. I do tend to lean towards Wissing...and very fine examples of his, if he made them." "I agree, the pose and compositional elements are shared in the works of Beale and Lely. But I feel that the handling and face patterns are different. Yours have a more silvery tone and 'nervous' handling, which is very attractive in my opinion. Beale's handling looks broader to me, especially in the drapery folds for example. The Beale examples you have shown also have that typical face pattern, which makes them instantly recognisable as her works. The wig of the gentleman too reminds me more of the style of William III than Charles II. I wish I could be a bit more specific on attribution, but it's very difficult without having access to th...

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