

SA720958

Portrait of a Gentleman c.1675,
by Mary Beale.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA720958

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 93 cm (36.6")

Width = 78.5 cm (30.9")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

Oil on canvas in a period frame. A fine portrait, characteristic of Mary Beale's mature and best period. She presents a sympathetic and insightful view of the sitter. There is a sense of intimacy so that despite the lace and silk the he is not affected or pretentious. She saw him, as do we, with a clear gaze. The portrait has been authenticated as an autograph work of the artist by Tabitha Barber, Curator of British Art 1500-1750, Tate Galleries. MARY BEALE (1633-1699) was born in Barrow, Suffolk, the daughter of John Cradock, a Puritan rector. Her mother, Dorothy, died when she was 10. Her father was an amateur painter, and member of the Painter-Stainers' Company, and she was acquainted with local artists, such as Nathaniel Thach, Matthew Snelling, Robert Walker and Peter Lely. In 1652, at the age of 18, she married Charles Beale, a cloth merchant from London - also an amateur painter. She became a semi-professional portrait painter in the 1650s and 1660s, working from her home, first in Covent Garden and later in Fleet Street. It was most unusual for a woman to take up a professional career as an artist at this time, but her studio thrived; her most active period was ...

Seller Details

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