

SA745463

Portrait of Alexander Pope
c.1716; Studio of Sir Godfrey
Kneller.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA745463

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 90 cm (35.4")

Width = 77.5 cm (30.5")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

From the Studio of SIR GODFREY KNELLER. Kneller (1646-1723) was a leading portrait painter during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. He was appointed Principal Painter in Ordinary to the Crown by Charles II. Kneller's studio was well established and prolific in their production of portraits. The prime version of this painting, which was executed in 1716 and owned by Pope himself, is now untraced. It is almost certainly that referred to by Pope in his letter to John Carlyll: 'Kneller has made me a fine present of a picture'. Other studio versions exist, including that at Raby Castle, Staindrop, and The British Library. The image was widely dispersed after it was engraved by John Raphael Smith in 1717. Pope wears, instead of his wig, a velvet cap. In portraiture this 'at home' headgear came to indicate that the sitter was a man of letters or of the arts. ALEXANDER POPE (21 May 1688 – 30 May 1744) is regarded as one of the greatest English poets, and the foremost poet of the early eighteenth century. He is best known for his satirical and discursive poetry, including *The Rape of the Lock*, *The Dunciad*, and *An Essay on Criticism*, as well as for his translation of Homer...

Internal Ref: Pope

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