

SA752943

Portrait of Miss Lyddell as a
Shepherdess c.1710; By
Michael Dahl (1659-1743)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA752943

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 145 cm (57.1")

Width = 119 cm (46.9")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This elegant and graceful portrait is said to represent Miss Lyddell. Painted by Michael Dahl, whom by 1700 became the most successful painter in England, second only to Godfrey Kneller. It is noteworthy in its state of preservation and its remarkable quality; it is amongst one of Dahl's finest works of aristocratic women. Presented in an outstanding carved and gilded antique frame which is a fine work of art in itself. The portrait genre was valued particularly highly in English society. Neither landscapes nor allegorical pictures were ever priced so highly at exhibitions and in the trade as depictions of people, from the highest aristocracy to scholars, writers, poets and statesmen. This portrait can be dated to circa 1725 and the occasion for commissioning the picture may have been a birthday or engagement. The curve of the neck and the elegant turn of the head are features typical of the formula used by Dahl. The sitter is fashionably attired in a silver silk dress and is placed in a landscape with a rocky outcrop and a hound. This type of informal setting with its romantic appearance was only beginning to take shape in this period as an alternative to the Fr...

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