

SA777047

Portrait of a Gentleman in a Red Coat c.1700; Attributed to John Kerseboom (fl.1680-1708)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA777047

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 96 cm (37.8")

Width = 83 cm (32.7")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

The sitter in this superb portrait is shown with the grandiloquence characteristic of the work of the Kersebooms (uncle and nephew). The subject has been elegantly portrayed wearing scarlet, the colour of distinction; the flamboyance and penetrating sense of character seems almost eclipsed by the artist's virtuosic handling of paint in the face and the magnificent full-bottomed periwig - the height of fashion when this portrait was painted c.1700. The sitter's strong sense of character almost lends an air of noble expectancy to the composition. In the late 17th century England's upper classes entered a new era of prosperity. No longer the preserve of royalty, commissioned portraits - of oneself or one's ancestors - became a coveted symbol of wealth and status and portraiture in England developed a distinctive 'Englishness'. 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. The present portrait is a striking and sumptuous example and represents a ...

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