

SA777525

Portrait of a Lady with a Fan
c.1656; Circle of Willem Drost
(1633-1659)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA777525

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 126 cm (49.6")

Width = 101 cm (39.8")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

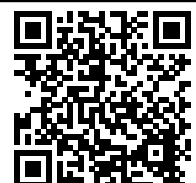
Description

This impressive large-scale portrait depicts a lady wearing an elaborate costume with a lace collar and matching wrist collars, fashionable circa 1650. The extraordinary costume with its costly fabric is of the highest quality and de rigueur for the upper class and mercantile citizens. As usual in Dutch dress of this period, the overall impression is one of understated luxury. Dutch society was very conscious of material excesses and the black attire in portraits was intended to reflect this (although this was not the dominant colour for everyday apparel). Ironically, black was one of the most expensive colours to make and maintain and was thus reserved for the most formal occasions (including having one's portrait painted). Artists had an array of stunning black fabrics and a wide range of textures to depict with clothing far from boring, often intricately detailed, with various fabrics contrasting with each other and with all manner of designs and patterns. The lace is a clue to her family's wealth; lace collars varied considerably within certain periods and were prized possessions, often listed in inventories of estates and passed down from generation to generatio...

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