

SA779175

Portrait Miniature of a Nobleman c.1615; Circle of Isaac Oliver.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA779175****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 305 cm (120.1")

Width = 25.5 cm (10.0")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

Painted on copper in a fine 17th century Italian frame. This is an exquisite miniature portrait only 8 cm tall, yet the artist has captured the sitter's character. He wears the fashionable rather soulful look of poetic melancholy which was all the rage at the time. His expensive clothing is depicted in careful detail; at this time this was of vital importance ... aristocrats and the gentry would spend fortunes on their clothing, typically a fine outfit would have cost as much as a decent sized farm, if not more. The finely sculpted frame is later than the portrait, probably Florentine, it is also a work of art by a talented wood carver. Set within this lovely frame the miniature assumes the characteristics of a piece of jewellery as well as being a portrait. This is a rare combination of frame and painting and, despite its small size, it has great impact and a powerful presence. ISAAC OLIVER (C. 1565-1617) was the pupil of the famous miniaturist Nicholas Hilliard and his earliest known portrait miniatures date from the 1580s. Like Hilliard, he was the son of a goldsmith; Oliver's father, Pierre Olivier, was of French Huguenot descent. Although Oliver worked all his life in France, he was born in England.

Seller Details

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