

SA840993

Portrait of Thomas Smith
Esquire c.1705; Sir Godfrey
Kneller Bt. (1646-1723),
Antique oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA840993

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 146 cm (57.5")

Width = 123 cm (48.4")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

Inscribed on dog collar 'Tomas Smith' This sumptuous large-scale portrait, with its interesting history, was painted by one of the best and most famous English portrait painters, Sir Godfrey Kneller. Kneller completed portraits of all the key figures of the time and was court painter to four sovereigns. He played a key role in the development of British art and influenced countless artists over generations. This portrait is one of his finest Augustan style portraits for which he is now best remembered and it dates from his later middle period when he produced his most distinguished paintings. The sitter is Thomas Smith Esq. It is possible that he is a member of the large Lincolnshire Smith family which included the explorer John Smith (1580-1631) – but it is certain that he had considerable wealth as he commissioned the most fashionable artist in the country. Shown standing in a romantic landscape dressed in a tight-fitting green coat with a cloak drawn across it and a full-bottomed wig, he carries a sword and has a greyhound by his side. Portraits showing sitters walking through romantic landscapes had been made popular in the previous century by the great court ...

Seller Details

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