

SA887540

Portrait of a Gentleman by Sir Godfrey Kneller and Studio c.1710.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA887540****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 90 cm (35.4")

Width = 77 cm (30.3")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Oil on canvas in reproduction frame of the correct type. This is a fine portrait and typical of Kneller's work at this time. The sitter looks out at us with confidence, his left hand rests on his hip, sweeping back his coat to expose the blue silk lining. He wears a large and very fashionable wig .. such wigs were expensive, the larger, the more costly. It is from this fashion that to this day rich and influential people are called 'bigwigs'. The sitter's face is beautifully and carefully painted, whilst in the chaotic curls of the wig the artist has enjoyed a sense of freedom and a painterly delight in the use of the medium. Kneller was deluged by demand for his portraits and the only way he could keep pace with the demand was by using his army of assistants, many of whom went on to be successful artists in their own right. SIR GODFREY KNELLER (1646-1723) studied under Ferdinand Bol, and perhaps Rembrandt himself in the 1660s. He was in Rome and Venice between 1672 and 1675, settling in England in 1676 for life. He was soon employed at Court and became the most successful portraitist of the generation following Lely. He enjoyed the office of Principal Painter, at first...

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