

SA904936

Portrait of a Gentleman in a
Black Doublet Holding a
Medallion c.1575/80;
Florentine School, Antique oil
on panel painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA904936

Date of manufacture: 16th Century

Dimensions

Height = 105 cm (41.3")

Width = 91 cm (35.8")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

In this magnificent oil on panel portrait, posing alongside a table dressed with red cloth, the young fashionable man is dressed in a black slashed doublet and white collar. Despite the restraint in the choice of hues the attire is made from the highest quality fabrics which were immensely costly. In the Florence of the second half of the Cinquecento, the art of Medicean portraiture attained its zenith. This period would see the establishment of the Academy of Florence, whose purpose was to promote the Tuscan language, and the foundation of the Accademia delle Arti del Disegno ('Academy and Company for the Arts of Drawing'). Artists assembled in confraternities ('Companies of pleasure'), whose main aim was to have a good time and indulge in artistic exploits. The distinguished sitter would have witnessed a profound transformation in the city of Florence into a veritable centre of power with citizens having an increasing personal affirmation of self-image and desire to leave their mark for posterity. Portraits were brilliant and complex symbols of luxury. Bearing a cool, proud expression he holds in his right hand a medallion or cameo, partially obscured by his th...

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