

SA928497

Portrait of a Lady in a Yellow Silk Dress and Purple Mantle c.1710; By Michael Dahl (1659-1743), Antique Oil on Canvas Painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA928497

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 95 cm (37.4")

Width = 82 cm (32.3")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This exquisite work is an accomplished example of the type of portrait in vogue at the turn of the 18th century in Britain. It was painted by Michael Dahl who an immensely successful portraitist there from the 1680s and over the next 60 years, painting many aristocrats and some members of royal families, such as Queen Anne of Great Britain, Prince George of Denmark and the exiled Queen Christina of Sweden. His work is impactful, but at the same time graceful, and is easily recognised with distinctive physiognomy, crisp drapery, and delicate finish in the face and hair, as seen here. This portrait typifies Dahl's eloquent depiction of aristocratic women, and reveals why he could outperform his contemporaries such as Kneller, Richardson, and Seeman. His portraits are noticeably softer than Kneller's in terms of the drawing and pose and he did not employ the use of flashy props and distractions as much – and therefore his work can often be described as an understated elegance. The artist's distinction as a colourist is particularly evident here in the contrast of pale pink with yellow to produce the exotic effect of satin. The drawing is superb and the clear fresh pa...

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