

SA937407

**Portrait of Elizabeth Spencer
c.1665; Follower of Sir Peter
Lely (1618-1680), Antique oil
on canvas painting**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA937407

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 64 cm (25.2")

Width = 52 cm (20.5")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This work formed part of the collection of family pictures and heirlooms of the ancient Gresley Baronets at their family seat, Drakelow Hall, Burton-on-Trent. The Gresley's held Drakelow for almost 1,000 years and 28 generations, a record of continuity scarcely matched by any other family in England. The last Gresley of Drakelow, Sir Robert, sold the contents of the mansion in a seven-day 2200-lot sale in July 1931 and thus dismantling a collection that was accumulated over many centuries. This charming portrait was painted around 1665 - it is characteristic of the type of portrait painted by Sir Peter Lely and his contemporaries at this time. The sitter is Lady Elizabeth Spencer, by tradition, and the portrait is known to have been at Drakelow as early as 1899 by an inventory of pictures taken that year (listed as "Lady E Spencer"). It may have come to Drakelow through the marriage of Sir Robert Gresley (1866-1936) to Lady Frances Spencer Churchill (1870-1954), eldest daughter of George, Duke of Marlborough. The Gresleys were an ancient Norman family, descended from Nigel de Stafford, the son of Robert de Stafford, scion of one of the most powerful families in Eng...

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