

SA93908

**SOLD....Portrait of a Lady 1601;
Circle of Gortzius Geldorp**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA93908

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on panel in 'cassetta' frame. The portrait is inscribed upper right "Ao 1.6.0.1. Stilo Veteri D. 11.7 bris. ADAMO Aet 23" The inscription translates: "In the year 1601, Old Style, on the 11th day of September, MY TRULY BELOVED aged 23". (Protestants throughout Europe flatly refused to adopt the new Gregorian calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582; it would still have been a sensitive issue in 1601. The inscription is all early modern Latin rather than Italian and the Protestant sitter, and her husband, wished to stress their religious identity; hence the use of 'old style' as 'new style' was Catholic.) The sitter is contained within a feigned stone oval with the spandrels painted as if carved. This beautiful portrait was painted to commemorate the marriage of this young lady; she proudly holds her right hand in a prominent position so the viewer may admire her large diamond engagement ring and her gold marriage band. (At this time wedding rings were worn on any finger on either hand.) The pearls on the sitter's wrist signify purity and innocence. Her hairline is fashionably plucked to increase the size of her forehead, this was considered to enhance fem...

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