

SA972818

Portrait of a Lady, Margaret Catesby (1640-1727) c.1660; Attributed to John Michael Wright (1617-1694), Oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA972818

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 97 cm (38.2")

Width = 78 cm (30.7")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This beautiful work descended from the sitter through the Catesby family. The Catesby family seat was Ecton Hall, an ancient building that is believed to have been in the hands of just three families since the Norman Conquest. The portrait is an outstanding example by one of England's most successful native 17th century artists, John Michael Wright. Wright operated a busy and very successful studio painting the upper echelons of society. His Italianate flavour was unlike any other artist's work in England, his lively faces were individualised, and he painted a much superior likeness than his contemporaries such as Peter Lely. The young woman is Margaret Catesby nee Samwell and she has been portrayed as the epitome of beauty and youth. The portrait was painted between circa 1660 to 1665, possibly at the time of her marriage in 1665. When Margaret Samwell was born on 6 October 1640, her father, Sir Richard Samwell, 4th Baronet, of Upton, Northants (1613-1693) was 27 and her mother, Frances Wenman (1616-1677) was 24. Frances was the eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Wenman (1596-1664) and granddaughter of Thomas Wenman, 2nd Viscount Wenman. The Samwell famil...

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