

SA975632

French Portrait of a Lady, as Saint Catherine c.1690; Circle of Francois de Troy (1645-1730), oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA975632

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 86 cm (33.9")

Width = 73 cm (28.7")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This work formed part of the collection of the ancient seigneuries of Fossé and Bosmelet at their family seat Château de Bosmelet in Normandy, France. The family held the chateau for 380 years until it was sold in 2012 for the first time in its history. This lavish portrait painted circa 1690 depicts the French noblewoman, Renée Bouthillier de Chavigny (died 1711) luxuriously attired in the finest silks adorned with jewelery of gold, diamonds and pearls. She was a daughter of Léon Bouthillier, Count of Chavigny, Secretary and Minister of State for King Louis XIII and Anne Phélypeaux de Villesavin. At a young age Renée was sent to be raised and educated at Port-Royal. She became nobility of Rouen in France when she married Jean II Beuzelin, the son of Jean I Beuzelin, adviser to the Parliament in Normandy. The couple had only one daughter, Anne-Marie Beuzelin de Bosmelet (1668-1752). Renée Bouthillier de Chavigny died in Rouen on 19th March 1711. Renée Bouthillier has been depicted in the guise of St Catherine, the spiked wheel being a common attribute of this saint in western art. Portraits depicting sitters as saints was common at this time. Saint Catherine was t...

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