

SA977460

Portrait of Sarah Churchill,
Duchess of Marlborough in a
Green Dress and Pink Mantle
c.1690s; By Michael Dahl
(1659-1743), Antique oil on
canvas painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA977460****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 73 cm (28.7")

Width = 60 cm (23.6")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

Beauty, at the time this portrait was painted in the 1690s, was a defining, celebrated female attribute and as such it was a prevailing preoccupation of court society. It was a powerful weapon and enslaver of men but it was also viewed as a glittering personification of morality and nobility. In portraiture, the power of beauty was utilised to convey notions of status and influence and many sitters favoured artists that excelled at portraying them in this manner. Van Dyke, Peter Lely, Godfrey Kneller, and Michael Dahl often portrayed a woman as a beautiful seductress, and this added to an artist's desirability amongst many sitters. The attractive lady in this exquisite portrait has traditionally been identified as Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough; she was a renowned beauty and prominent figure at the Courts of King William and Queen Mary and later Queen Anne. A highly respected women among the upper echelons of English aristocratic society. Born Sarah Jennings in 1660, she later married the general John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough in 1677-78. As a child, Sarah formed a close friendship with the Princess Anne (the future queen of Great Britain) and ent...

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