

SA998454

Portrait of a Gentleman,
William Seymour, 3rd Duke of
Somerset (1652-1671)
c.1658/60; Studio of Sir Peter
Lely (1618-1680), Antique oil
on canvas painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA998454****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 145 cm (57.1")

Width = 123 cm (48.4")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

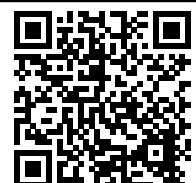
Description

This exquisite portrait, datable to circa 1658-60, depicts William Seymour, Duke of Somerset, Marquis of Hertford, Viscount Beauchamp, and Baron Seymour. He was the son of Henry Seymour, Lord Beauchamp and Mary Capell, sister of the 1st Earl of Essex. The portrait was painted in the studio of the court painter, Sir Peter Lely. Standing in a porch with classical architecture, resting one arm on a plinth whilst the other holds a pike, he is shown with the grandiloquence characteristic of a nobleman. The Roman attire was often used in portraits at this time to provide a sense of timelessness as rapid changes in fashion quickly made portraits appear outdated. The attire, the classical architecture, and the moody sky evokes an Arcadian setting; contemporary audiences were educated and familiar with Latin and Greek poetry and the mere inclusion of such motifs were immediately recognised. Duke of Somerset, from the county of Somerset, is a title that has been created five times. It is particularly associated with two families: the Beauforts (creation of 1448) and the Seymours (creation of 1547) who were descendants of Edward III (1312-1377) and resided at Wulfhall from 1...

Seller Details

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