



Attributed To Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723). Portrait Of A Lord Commander, C. 1690



7 200 EUR

Signature : Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723) attribué.

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Oil painting

Length : 76 cm, 101 cm avec le cadre

Width : 63 cm, 88 cm avec le cadre

Description

Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723) attributed.
Portrait of a Lord Commander, ca. 1690 Oil on re-stretched canvas, 76 cm by 63.5 cm Spectacular antique frame, 101.5 cm by 88.5 cm Portrait of an Officer in Armor This portrait depicts a still-young man, shown in half-length, three-quarter profile, with his face turned toward the viewer. He wears an imposing brown wig with long curls, characteristic of late 17th-century English aristocratic fashion. The face, vividly lit against a dark background, stands out for the delicacy of the skin tones and the intensity of his gaze. The subject is clad in ceremonial armor made of burnished steel, accented with gilded rivets. On the left, in the shadows, his hand holds a command staff, an attribute that identifies this not as a mere aristocratic portrait in armor, but

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likely as the likeness of a figure holding an important military position. The composition is firmly rooted in the tradition of English portraiture developed by Sir Godfrey Kneller and his studio in the late 17th century. The dimensions of 76 × 63.5 cm correspond almost exactly to the English format of 30 × 25 inches, frequently used for this type of portrait. The large wig, the armor, and the staff of command also find numerous parallels among the portraits of officers painted by Kneller during the reigns of James II and William III. The particularly careful rendering of the face, contrasting with the more hasty execution of the armor, the hand, and the background, could be consistent with the practices of Kneller's studio, where accessories were often entrusted to assistants. These elements suggest a date around 1690-1695, while the identity of this officer remains undetermined to this day.

Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646-1723) Born in Lübeck in 1646 as Gottfried Kneller, Godfrey Kneller trained in the United Provinces before spending time in Italy. He settled in England in the 1670s and, after the death of Sir Peter Lely in 1680, he quickly established himself as the leading portraitist of the British court. His long career allowed him to work successively for Charles II, James II, William III and Mary II, Queen Anne, and George I. He painted monarchs, aristocrats, politicians, and military officers, developing a portraiture style that was both elegant and instantly recognizable. His military portraits, often characterized by armor and the staff of command, occupy a significant place in his body of work, particularly during the reign of William III. At the head of a particularly active studio, Kneller frequently focused his own efforts on the faces, while costumes, armor, and backgrounds could be entrusted to his assistants. This organizational structure explains the existence of numerous versions and repetitions of his compositions. These were also widely disseminated through engravings, notably through the mezzotints by John Smith. Knighted by William

III in 1692, and later created a baronet by George
I in 1715, Kneller remains the dominant figure
in English portraiture between the late 17th and
early 18th centuries. He died in London in 1723.