

KLAAS MULLER

F R A N S I I P O U R B U S

Portrait of a Lady

Frans Pourbus II the Younger was the son Frans I Pourbus. After the early death of his father, he became a pupil of his grandfather Pieter in Bruges. He became a famous portrait painter in Antwerp rather soon, working for the Catholic and Habsbourg' nobility. Between 1600 and 1609 he was the court portraitist of Vincenzo I Gonzaga in Mantova, where he most likely met Rubens. Around 1609 he was invited by Maria de Medici (Gonzaga's sister in law) in Paris where he stayed, up until 1622.

This portrait can be stylistically situated around 1610-1620, during Pourbus' period in Paris, whilst he was working at the court of Henry IV and Louis XIII. Also, the fashion is quite comparable with famous portraits at that time (eg. "Portrait of Maria de Medici", Musée Carnavalet Paris and "Portrait of Isabella Bourbon", Prado, Madrid).

Because of the black cap and the cross she is wearing, we assume our lady is probably a widow, related to the French court.

Oil on Canvas, 69 x 54.5 cm



Circa: ca 1610-1620