KLAAS MULLER

PIETER NASON

Portrait of a Gentleman

This is a portrait of a gentleman in a dark suit with a white collar and cuffs, painted as a half-length figure.

Pieter Nason was a respected portrait and still life painter who spent most of his career in The Hague.

His portraits of fashionable patrons resemble the smooth, highly polished paintings of his contemporary, Bartholomeus van der Helst in Amsterdam. Van der Helst's portraits were more popular than Rembrandt's at the time. Little is known about Nason's life. He trained under the painter Jan van Ravensteyn and lived in Amsterdam in 1638. The following year, he became a member of the painters' guild in The Hague.

Around 1666, Nason worked at the court of the Elector in Berlin for some time and then returned to The Hague.

The subjects of his paintings were invariably aristocratic patrons dressed in elaborate clothing. In this portrait, the sitter's status is evident from his embroidered white collar and cuffs.

Oil on canvas.

Signed and dated '1663' in the lower right corner.



Circa: 1663

Artist description:

Pieter Nason (Amsterdam, c. 1612 - The Hague, 1688/90) was a Dutch painter. He became a member of The Hague's Sint-Lucas guild in 1639 and one of the 47 members who founded the Confrerie Pictura in 1656.
He was possibly a pupil of Jan van Ravesteyn and it is believed that his name was removed from paintings first assigned to Mierevelt, Moreelse and certainly Ravesteyn. It is certain that he painted portraits of Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen and King Charles II of England. The date of his death is not known but he died elderly.