

# PORTRAIT OF MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS

Artist: Godaert Kamper  
 Date: 1640 ca.  
 Dimensions: 105 x 74.5 cm  
 Material: Oil on canvas  
 Inventory Number: 41147

Total Cost: € 11.935,00

## STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The canvas suffers small loss of color and a layer of dirt that darkens the overall surface. Some areas appear oxidized.

## RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Proper calibrated cleaning of the surface
- Cleaning and touching-up of the gaps
- Reintegration of the pictorial surface
- Reapplication and balancing of the protective coating
- Photographic documentation
- Reassembly



The style of this beautiful painting is clearly influenced by the Nordic culture and has been variously attributed to two Dutch painters: Bartholomaeus van der Heist (Haarlem 1613-Amsterdam 1670) and Jan Verspronk (1597-1642). On the back of the painting are several small pieces of paper listing the names of two artists.

According to recent studies, however, this painting depicting a woman with her two daughters seems to show no particular affinity with either of the above mentioned artists. On the contrary, this piece is a recognizable work of Godaert Kamper due to its style and composition. Kamper was a German painter who was born in Dusseldorf in 1614. He left Germany in 1633 to live and work first in Leiden, and later in Amsterdam where he died in 1679. Kamper mainly painted landscapes and portraits. His style was very close to those of Pieter Anthonie Palamedesz and Codd.

This type of painting, representing a woman with her two daughters, belongs to a genre of portraiture very popular in Holland in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In this period, Holland was a dynamic country focused on business and Protestantism. Amidst this social environment, most artwork did not serve as an expression of political power or religion but rather of popular taste and painting. This especially gave rise to portraiture, not only for the nobility but also for the new bourgeoisie who recognized their own portraits as symbols of wealth and power to collect and display in their houses.

As a portraitist, Kamper fits into this tradition. The subjects of this painting are an austere and dignified woman with her two daughters. The main subject features a female figure dressed in sober black, pearl gray and golden beige. Her black dress is simple but elegant with a large ruff, a noble element used in clothing for men and women from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. A white handkerchief lined with a thin lace adorns her head. Next to the woman, the two little girls are dressed in Dutch fashions and smiling at the viewer. The color palette of the painting is made up of sober shades of white, gray and black, highlighting Kamper's smooth and polished brushwork.

