

Portrait of Jean Baptiste Budes

Date

after 1656

Primary Maker

Justus van Egmont

Medium

oil on canvas

Description

This elegant portrait of a nobleman is painted after an engraving by Robert Nanteuil, who operated a distinguished atelier and was renowned as a court painter, pasteliste, and engraver to France's King Louis XIV. The subject is believed to be Jean-Baptiste Budes, Comte de Guebriant, who was promoted to commander of the armies of the king in Alsace, Germany, and after distinguishing himself during the Thirty Years' War was named Marshall of France. This painting typifies the paradox that characterizes much French 17th century ceremonial or official portraiture, which embraced, to a limited extent, Italy's Baroque legacy of theatricality and extravagance but largely rejected its excess in favor of a more classical, rational, and subdued style. In this portrait, dramatic contrasts between light and dark elements, as well as elaborately rendered textures, are tempered by a restrained, formal quality, appropriate for the dignified, highly regarded, and reputedly pious subject.

Dimensions

Sight: 47 3/4 x 36 3/4 in. (121.3 x 93.3 cm) Framed: 60 1/4 x 49 3/8 x 4 in. (153 x 125.4 x 10.2 cm)