

SA1021928

Octavius Oakley RWS, Harvest Girl - Antique Watercolour

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1021928****Date of manufacture: 1850**

Dimensions

Height = 64 cm (25.2")

Width = 54 cm (21.3")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This fine mid-19th-century watercolour by accomplished British artist Octavius Oakley RWS (1800-1867) depicts a harvest girl leaning in a cottage doorway. It was shown at the Academy of Arts, Liverpool, in 1856 and referred to in the Art Journal. With a sickle resting upon her right arm, she looks wistfully into the yonder. A quiet moment of rest following a long day in the fields. She's not a hired model as Oakley painted from life - and it's plausible they knew each other. The details are exquisite and underpinned by exceptional draughtsmanship. A precocious talent, Oakley taught himself to draw by candlelight against the wishes of his father. In a biography, a close associate recalled that, as a boy, he'd gather candle ends and take these to his room to illuminate the pages of sketchbooks while his family slept. His father, a wool merchant, sent him to Yorkshire in the hope he'd enter the same trade. Yet, determined to pursue an artistic career, he produced portraits of local farmers and colleagues to hone his skills. And before long, he was working for the aristocracy under the kind guidance of the Earl of Shrewsbury. But despite the ample array of noble commissio...

Seller Details

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