

SA1025022

18th century pastel portrait of Lady Margaret Smith-Burges by Thomas Lawrence (1769-1838)

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1025022****Date of manufacture: Georgian**

Dimensions

Height = 64 cm (25.2")

Width = 53 cm (20.9")

Description

A pastel portrait of Lady Margaret Smith-Burges, later Countess Poulett (1754-1838) by Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830). Oval, pastel on paper 29.5 x 24cm (excluding frame), in an ornate giltwood and gesso frame with a coronet crest, circa 1785. Inscription on reverse 'Portrait in crayons by Sir Thomas Lawrence of the Dowr. Countess Poulett'. This is a rare and early work in Lawrence's career who as a child prodigy began working as a youth in pastels, moving on to work almost exclusively in oils after 1790. Margaret (born Burges) was the daughter of Ynyr Burges and Margaret Brown. She became the wife of Sir John Smith-Burges, 1st Baronet in 1771 and later after his death the wife of John, 4th Earl Poulett whom she married in 1816. During her first marriage, Margaret was a regular visitor to Bath and very likely sat for the young Lawrence whilst he was living there. Thomas Lawrence was born the son of an innkeeper who moved the family to Bath in 1779. His father, recognising his son's talent from an early age, advertised his services as a portraitist in the Bath Journal; 'Master Lawrence continues to take very striking Likenesses of Ladies and Gentlemen in the most ple...

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