

SA1097713

William Boyton Kirk, Parian
Figurine "Evangeline,"
Worcester, c. 1853.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1097713

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Description

This rare antique Parian figurine depicts a young woman seated in repose on a grassy bank, draped in a cloak. The figure, named Evangeline, is inspired by the heroine of *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*, a poem written by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1847. The poem follows an Acadian girl, Evangeline, on her quest to find her lost love, Gabriel, during the expulsion of the Acadians by the British. The poem greatly influenced both Acadian history and identity in the 19th and 20th centuries. It represents themes of lost love, heartbreak, and enduring hope. Evangeline is portrayed as a beautiful, almost divine young woman. She is a dutiful daughter and a beloved member of her community. After marrying Gabriel, the Acadian exile tragically separates them. She spends the rest of her life wandering and waiting for him, only to find him dying of smallpox in the end. Evangeline holds him in her arms as he passes, thanking God for reuniting them. They are buried beside each other, symbolising eternal love and devotion. Parian porcelain, a material resembling marble from Paros, Greece, gained great attention at the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London. Introduced at Worces...

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