

SA1187621

Portrait of a Lady in a White Silk Dress & Red Drapery, Signed and Dated 1739; John Vanderbank (1694–1739), Oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1187621

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 144 cm (56.7")

Width = 121 cm (47.6")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

Signed and dated 1739—the final year of John Vanderbank's life—this is a rare, highly desirable late portrait by one of the leading native painters of early Georgian London. Ambitious in scale and refined in execution, it retains notably fine condition and is housed in a fine carved and gilded eighteenth-century frame, appropriate to an elite commission. The picture offers precisely what discerning collectors seek in early Georgian portraiture: a commanding, life-present sitter, virtuoso handling of satin and jewels, and a quiet but eloquent statement of rank, lineage, and cultivated identity. The sitter is shown three-quarter length, seated before a softly idealised landscape. Vanderbank's mature portrait language is strongly evident in the poised balance of grandeur and intimacy, the confident articulation of the hands, and the controlled tonal contrasts that create vivid presence. The face is modelled with restraint and warmth; the direct gaze and self-possessed expression convey assured social standing without theatricality. The landscape is not literal topography but an estate-coded setting—an emblem of leisure, property, and the values of landed life. Her costume ...

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