

SA1199070

Nicolas Fouché, Portrait Of A Lady As Flora, Goddess Of Spring - Antique Oil Painting

Price

GBP 8,500

| USD \$11,502 | EUR 9,946

Item Reference: SA1199070

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 96 cm (37.8")

Width = 81 cm (31.9")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This elegant early 18th-century oil painting by French master portraitist Nicolas Fouché (1653-1733) depicts a young lady representing an allegory of Flora, the goddess of flowers and Spring. It exemplifies the refined grace and allegorical charm that characterised the Régence period. The sitter, portrayed half-length and turned slightly toward the viewer, is adorned in a sumptuous blue gown with gold lacing - its sleeves of translucent silk tied with soft pink ribbons. A rose-pink sash falls across her arm, while matching flowers adorn her powdered hair. She appears both real and idealised, against a wooded backdrop bathed in the warm light of evening. There's a sculptural quality to her form, akin to polychromed marble. She's a vision suspended between portraiture and myth. Fouché's treatment of costume - neither courtly nor antique - was typical of early eighteenth-century allegorical portraiture, in which fashionable women were recast as goddesses or virtues. The symbolism of Spring, youth, and beauty is woven subtly into her attire: the pink blossoms for renewal, the blue gown for air and sky, the golden lacing for vitality and abundance. Comparable works by Fouché...

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