

SA1224741

Portrait of a Young Lady in a White Dress c. 1730–1740; Attributed to Jeremiah Davison (c. 1695–1745), Oil on canvas painting

Price

GBP 3,450

| USD \$4,669 | EUR 4,037

Item Reference: SA1224741

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 95 cm (37.4")

Width = 83 cm (32.7")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

What makes this portrait compelling is its directness: the sitter's steady, intelligent gaze meets the viewer without theatricality, yet the painting never feels plain. The artist balances domestic intimacy—soft hair, an “undress” neckline, and an absence of showy jewellery—with quiet elegance. A warm, subdued ground pushes the head forward, while luminous whites and restrained crimson drapery create a refined harmony of tone and colour. Up close, the calm authority of the face and the assured handling of satin and shadow give the work a vivid sense of presence. The sitter is shown in the fashionable idiom of early Georgian “undress” portraiture, prized for signalling refinement without court stiffness. She wears a pale silk or satin wrapper or “nightgown” (a term then used for less-formal dress rather than literal sleepwear), with a wide neckline softened by the chemise and a bodice drawn together with ribbon-tie or lacing. A deep crimson mantle—part studio convention, part status cue—warms the palette. Long, softly arranged hair, falling over one shoulder, completes the cultivated informality associated with private rooms and polite sociability. The sitter cannot pres...

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