

SA134466

**Portrait of a Lady c.1720;
Attributed to Jonathan
Richardson**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA134466

Date of manufacture: 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in giltwood frame. Painted in the reign of George I, the sitter, wearing a striking red mantle, looks out from an unusual feigned stone diamond; the common practice was for this to be an oval. She has an air of quiet confidence. JONATHAN RICHARDSON (1665–1745) sometimes called "the Elder" to distinguish him from his son) was an English artist, collector of drawings, and writer on art, working almost entirely as a portrait-painter in London. Richardson was born in 1666, but when he was about seven his father died and his mother married again. Richardson became a scrivener's apprentice, but he was released early when his master retired. Richardson was lucky enough to be taken on as a painting apprentice by John Riley. He learnt the art of portraiture from Riley whilst living at his master's house. Richardson's wife was Riley's niece. Richardson was even more influential as a writer than as a painter according to Samuel Johnson. He is credited with inspiring Joshua Reynolds to paint and theorise with his 1715 book 'An Essay on the Theory of Painting'. In 1731 he was considered by some art-critics as one of the three foremost painters of his time with Charles...

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