

SA145609

SOLD....Portrait of a Young Lady c.1730; Attributed to Joseph Highmore

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA145609

Date of manufacture: 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in early 19th c. gilt frame. This fine portrait of a young woman has a real Baroque swagger to it; the lady seems almost to be moving across the canvas, her silken robe billowing behind her. The material of her gown and robe have the expensive-looking rather metallic sheen associated with Highmore's treatment of material. The sitter looks directly at the viewer with confidence and candour. The veins of her left hand can be seen faintly shown in blue; at this period, and earlier, for a woman to have a semi-translucent skin and blue veins showing was considered very attractive and well bred...hence the expression 'blue-blood' for members of the aristocracy. JOSEPH HIGHMORE (1692 - 1780) was born in London, on June 13th 1692. He was the third son of Edward and Mary (Tull) Highmore. His father was a coal merchant in Thames Street. He was articled as clerk to an attorney in 1707, but his ambition was always to paint, and he studied for two years at the academy founded by Sir Godfrey Kneller in Great Queen Street. Beginning as a professional portrait painter in 1715, he gained clients from the City merchants who approved of what they perceived to be his ability ...

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