

**SA152147**

**SOLD....Portrait of a Lady  
c.1720; Follower of Kneller.**

Price

**Sold**

**Item Reference: SA152147**

**Date of manufacture: 1700**

## Description

Oil on canvas in gilded frame. A delightful portrait of a young lady in the early 18th century. Fashionably clad in her 'undress', her hair 'a la mode', she sits, lost in thought. There are many hints that this is probably a betrothal portrait. In her hair the lady wears pearls...symbol of purity and love. To her right the sitter rests her elbow on an urn - the symbol of female fecundity - to further make the point, the urn bears an image of a naked nymph. From the urn grows an orange tree. It was inconceivable to get married without flowers from the orange tree for the bride's bouquet. The orange tree's symbolic role came from the fact that the tree bears leaves, flowers and fruit at the same time. It was seen as an emblem of love and marriage; the leaves are always green and symbolise lifelong love, its white flowers symbolise the fiancée's sincerity, while the fruits, which ripen between the flowers, represent hope for an heir. Significantly, the sitter rests the flowers in her lap. An especially charming aspect of this portrait is its size. Its three quarter length format was normally reserved for canvases of 50 x 40 inches, but this painting's size gives it a mor...

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