

SA232281

**SOLD....Portrait of a Lady
c.1750, by James Cranke.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA232281

Date of manufacture: 1750

Description

Oil on canvas in a good 18th century carved and giltwood frame. A fine portrait typical of its period and the artist's style painted with a great sensitivity to the character of the sitter. JAMES CRANKE (1707 – 1780) was born at Little Urswick, near Barrow, and lived there for most of his life. He started as a plasterer and trained himself as an artist to a very high level. He attended St. Martin's Lane Academy and in 1744 he married a well-known heiress and opened his own studio in Bloomsbury Square. Vertue, in 1746, said he had seen a portrait of Cranke's "painted strongly...and at least as well as anyone living", by then Cranke was charging ten guineas for half lengths. His work was very similar to that of the noted artist Thomas Hudson and "quite as good as Hudson". (Dictionary of 18th c Painters by Ellis Waterhouse). Cranke's style, especially in pose and palette, is also very reminiscent of Allan Ramsay. In 1755 he and his family moved to Urswick where he built a large new house and established a very successful portrait practice painting local landowners and their families. Cranke taught the famous artist George Romney (1734–1802) how to paint when he was a small...

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