

SA235646

Portrait of a Girl c.1735: Circle of Joseph Highmore.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA235646****Date of manufacture:**

Description

Oil on canvas in a Georgian gilt frame (lower edge of the frame has numerous small damages). An enchanting portrait of a young girl in a pink dress with a blue wrap; she smiles rather shyly at the viewer. Portraits of this small size were often displayed in the more intimate rooms of a household and one can imagine this in the girl's mother's boudoir or her private sitting room. JOSEPH HIGHMORE (1692-1780) was an English portrait and historical painter, illustrator and author. He was one of the most talented and versatile English portraitists of the eighteenth century. He first trained, for five years, as a lawyer but abandoned the practice and entered Sir Godfrey Kneller's Academy in London in 1713. When he began work as a professional artist in 1715 he found his natural ability to draw a sharp likeness soon won him a large clientele in the City, while his legal education and manner helped gain access to the nobility and gentry. Such was his success that the poet John Bunce wrote the following verse soon after the death of Kneller in 1723; "No more let Britain for her Kneller grieve In Highmore see a rising Kneller live Whose happy pencil claims as high a name If equ..."

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