

SA245447

**SOLD....Portrait of a Gentleman
c.1770; Circle of Joseph Wright
of Derby.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA245447

Date of manufacture: 1750

Description

Oil on canvas in a late 18th century giltwood frame. The handsome young man sits pensive, his thoughts far away, probably concerning the letter he holds in his right hand...a letter from his beloved? The portrait is painted with great sensitivity and demonstrates the chiaroscuro that was a characteristic of Wright. The typical traits of Wright's portraiture are apparent – an easy handling of the fall of light that diffuses over the sitter's face, and along the shoulders of his coat to give the soft appearance almost of pastel – a reminder that Wright was also an accomplished painter in chalks and pastels. JOSEPH WRIGHT (1734 – 1797), styled Wright of Derby, was an English landscape and portrait painter. Wright is notable for his use of Chiaroscuro effect, which emphasises the contrast of light and dark, and for his paintings of candle-lit subjects. His paintings of the birth of science out of alchemy, often based on the meetings of the Lunar Society, a group of very influential scientists and industrialists living in the English Midlands, are a significant record of the struggle of science against religious values in the period known as the Age of Enlightenment. Jose...

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