

SA245546

Portrait of Mary Trelawney Wigan c.1752; Follower of Allan Ramsay.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA245546

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in ornate giltwood and composition 19th century frame. The sitter is very expensively dressed and carries flowers signifying her youth and future fruitfulness. The artist was clearly influenced by the successful Scottish portraitist ALLAN RAMSAY (1713-1784) who was at the height of his powers in the mid 18th century. His portraits of women are especially notable for the warmth, tenderness, and bloom of their presentation, as well as for the technical facility with which lace and ruffles are reproduced. The influence of French Rococo portraiture is clear in the lightness and unpretentious elegance of these works. MARY TRELAWNEY WIGAN (later Mary Trelawney May) was born in 1740, the daughter of the prominent physician, poet and author Dr. John Wigan and his wife Mary, sister of the wife of Colonel Edward Trelawney, Governor of Jamaica and Wigan's oldest friend. (A portrait of Dr. Wigan is also for sale on this website) The two friends had travelled to Jamaica in 1738. Trelawney settled in Spanish Town, and Wigan married Mary Wheeler, daughter of planter John Douce, soon afterwards. Wigan, alas, died in December 1739 before his daughter's birth in 1740. He ...

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Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273