

SA362502

**Portrait of a Young Gentleman
c.1805; Circle of Sir Henry
Raeburn.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA362502

Date of manufacture: 1800

Description

Oil on canvas in original giltwood frame. In this portrait the light that falls right to left across the sitter's face emphasises the modelling to suggest strength of character and purpose, and with the tousled hair creates a sense of drama. Raeburn's portraits have an understated beauty and sheer physical presence, with a dynamic, romantic quality that matched the spirit of the times. These, along with an innate grasp of likeness, are the qualities that assured Raeburn's popularity with the gentry of his native Scotland and then - as his reputation spread - with London society. SIR HENRY RAEBURN (1756-1823) was born the son of a manufacturer in Stockbridge, on the Water of Leith; a former village now within the city of Edinburgh. Orphaned, he was supported by his older brother and placed in Heriot's Hospital, where he received an education. At the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to the goldsmith James Gilliland of Edinburgh. Soon he took to the production of carefully finished portrait miniatures; meeting with success and patronage, he extended his practice to oil painting, at which he was self-taught. Gilliland watched the progress of his pupil with interest, and...

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