

SA373619

**Portrait a Young Lady in Red
c.1700; Circle of Sir Godfrey
Kneller.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA373619

Date of manufacture: 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in a period carved and giltwood frame. The sitter looks to be about sixteen years old, which means she would be on the marriage market at that time. She holds a bunch of flowers in her lap, which signify two things. Firstly, they are a symbol of fecundity and future fruitfulness at a time when the main purpose of an aristocratic woman was to produce a son and heir. Secondly, they are a reminder of the transience of youth and of life itself, especially when this period was one with a high mortality rate. She sits on a terrace overlooking a garden, behind her and beneath her left arm is a costly silk fabric trimmed with gold lace. SIR GODFREY KNELLER (1646-1723) studied under Ferdinand Bol, and perhaps Rembrandt himself in the 1660s. He was in Rome and Venice between 1672 and 1675, settling in England in 1676 for life. He was soon employed at Court and became the most successful portraitist of the generation following Lely. He enjoyed the office of Principal Painter to the King, at first jointly with John Riley (d.1691), from shortly after the accession of William and Mary in 1688 until his death. He was knighted in 1692 and became a baronet in 1715. His work...

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