

SA407770

**Portrait of a Young Lady
c.1675; Circle of John Michael
Wright.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA407770

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 89 cm (35.0")

Width = 77 cm (30.3")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Oil on canvas in reproduction frame. A charming portrait of a young woman wearing a rich 'Roman' robe draped over her shoulder; this is not a garment she would ever have worn in her everyday life. Its purpose was to suggest the Classical world of Ancient Rome, so fashionable at the time. This was known as "elevating the sitter" and was thought to confer a timeless quality upon the portrait. The young woman is clearly not much more than a girl, this would be her first 'adult' portrait and probably signified her entrance into the marriage market; 13 to 14 years old was the age this usually occurred in upmarket circles. She appears confident and poised, yet there is a hint of thoughtfulness behind that look. JOHN MICHAEL WRIGHT (1617-1694) was one of the most successful native English artists of the seventeenth century. With earlier contemporaries such as Robert Walker and William Dobson, he was one of only a few English painters to find favour amongst the top echelons of society. At the height of his fame, he styled himself 'Pictor Regius' [The King's Painter] His career was all the more remarkable in an era when patrons continued their traditional preference for foreign artists.

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