

SA411159

**Portrait of a Lady c.1750;
Attributed to Joseph Highmore.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA411159

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 101 cm (39.8")

Width = 89 cm (35.0")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

Oil on canvas in a good quality hand carved and giltwood rococo frame. The attractive sitter, expensively and fashionably dressed, looks out at the viewer with an air of quiet confidence, her head slightly turned almost in an inquiring manner. Behind her stand large stone columns, with a landscape view to her right, symbolising the wealth and power of the landed classes. JOSEPH HIGHMORE (c.1692 - 1780) was one of the most talented and versatile English portraitists of the eighteenth century. He first trained, for five years, as a lawyer but abandoned the practice and entered Sir Godfrey Kneller's Academy in London in 1713. When he began work as a professional artist in 1715 he found his natural ability to draw a sharp likeness soon won him a large clientele in the City, while his legal education and manner helped gain access to the nobility and gentry. Such was his success that the poet John Bunce wrote the following verse soon after the death of Kneller in 1723; "No more let Britain for her Kneller grieve In Highmore see a rising Kneller live Whose happy pencil claims as high a name If equal merit challenge equal fame." Although Highmore's style first followed that...

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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