

SA443700

Portrait of Letitia Hall, c1775,
by George Knapton.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA443700

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 99 cm (39.0")

Width = 85 cm (33.5")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

Oil on canvas in a good period William Kent carved and giltwood frame.. This is an extremely fine quality portrait and an excellent example of Knapton's best work. LETITIA HALL married Charles Hewitt (born 1742) in 1775, probably when this portrait was commissioned. The union produced six children, one of whom died in infancy. The Hewitts are an ancient family, and the family tree that accompanies this portrait traces their ancestry back to the 1200s, and then, rather more sketchily (and perhaps hopefully) to Charlemagne the Great in the 8th century. GEORGE KNAPTON (1698-1778) was an English portrait painter, he was born in Christchurch, Hampshire, the son of William Knapton Esquire of Brockenhurst, Hampshire. He studied art under Jonathan Richardson, then at the St. Martin's Lane Academy. He spent some years in Italy where he became known as a sound judge of the works of the Old Masters. An account of his visit to Herculaneum was published in the "Philosophical Transactions" of 1740 (no. 458). Knapton was an original member of the "Society of Dilettanti" and their first portrait artist. He painted many members of the society, including the Duke of Dorset, Viscount Ga...

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