

SA462347

Portrait of a Lady, dated 1876;
Signed John Robert Dicksee
(1817 - 1905)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA462347

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 64 cm (25.2")

Width = 51 cm (20.1")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

Oil on canvas. The fact that this lady is painted alone panders to the popularity of Victorian images of solitary female figures. The painting is at once a portrait and a celebration of female beauty. Female beauty was much prized in the 19th Century. For the first time, large numbers of pictures were painted whose sole raison d'être was a depiction of such beauty; not so much in the form of specific portraiture, but more as a homage to feminine beauty in its own right. The dreamlike gaze adds an element of romanticism. The entire work has been painted with great skill and precision with the artist carefully observing the face and hands. The treatment of the fabrics is outstanding, notably the white silk with the floral pattern, and the fluid handling and beautiful rendering shows all the vigour and style of the Victorian portrait. This tender portrayal of femininity and idealised beauty is exceptionally appealing and the finest example of the artist's work that we have encountered. Signed with a monogram (JRD) and dated 1876 lower left. On the reverse of the antique frame is a label containing the artist's name and registered stock number. John Robert Dicksee...

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