

SA575127

George Clint, 1770 – 854
Portrait of Edmund Kean
1787-1833 as Richard III with
the Duke of Buckingham

Price

GBP 3,800

| USD \$5,145 | EUR 4,446

Item Reference: SA575127**Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 90 cm (35.4")

Width = 70 cm (27.6")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

George Clint, 1770 – 854 Portrait of Edmund Kean 1787-1833 as Richard III with the Duke of Buckingham oil on canvas 90 x 70 cm. (36 x 28 in.) Theatre scholars have been fascinated by Edmund Kean since his death in 1833, aged 45. It is partly because he single-handedly changed the way Shakespeare was acted at the time and partly because he went from near destitution to fame and fortune virtually overnight. Kean's relatively short working life was every bit as dramatic as his stage performances. Not only was his rise to stardom extraordinarily rapid but, once perched at the top of the tree, he proceeded to behave very badly indeed. "He was one of the first great celebrities of Georgian England, but he had no idea how to deal with it," says Hughes, who is also a Shakespearean scholar. "He was earning £50 a night at a time when the average annual income was £30. He spent the money on whores and booze, and towards the end of his career regularly appeared drunk on stage." In terms of his acting, Kean replaced the lifeless posturing and declaiming of his predecessors with a level of passion, urgency and energy that hadn't previously been seen on the London stage. His signature...

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