

SA673157

Portrait of a Young Lady
c.1835, Circle or Studio of Sir
Martin Archer Shee.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA673157

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 87.5 cm (34.4")

Width = 74 cm (29.1")

Depth = 7.5 cm (3.0")

Description

Oil on canvas in a period giltwood frame. A charming portrait of an attractive young woman painted during the reign of King William IV. The sitter wears a bright red rose in her hair, in the Language of Flowers this signifies romantic love. She holds to her breast a white rose; white roses mean purity and innocence. They can be used to show that you feel that your love is pure and that you believe the recipient to be pure. White roses also mean you are loyal. It seems likely that this portrait was commissioned to commemorate a proposed marriage, at this time engagement rings were not always worn. SIR MARTIN ARCHER SHEE (b Dublin, 20 Dec. 1769; d Brighton, 19 Aug. 1850). Irish portrait painter and writer on art, active from 1788 in London. There he became second only to Sir Tomas Lawrence as the leading society portraitist, painting members of the Royal Family and other aristocrats. His work was very much influenced by Lawrence, and he had a very active Studio and Circle. In 1830 he succeeded him as President of the Royal Academy, which he guided through a difficult period when it was under attack from Haydon and other disaffected artists. Examples of his work—which in s...

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