

SA822966

Portrait of a British Officer in a Scarlet Uniform c.1805; Circle of Sir William Beechey RA (1753-1839), Antique oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA822966

Date of manufacture: 1800

Dimensions

Height = 71 cm (28.0")

Width = 64 cm (25.2")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

This exquisite portrait bears testimony to the artist's ability to convey not just a likeness but something of the character of the sitter – self-assured, but there is also a sense of warmth. The red scarlet cloth and the silver detail against the dark background are an apparently effortless harmonisation of tones, and they create a striking image. The dashing young officer wears an elaborate scarlet coat with a high standing collar dark mustard lapels worn over a white linen shirt with a sheer frill down the front - popular in the late 18th century. He also wears a sash and badge over his right shoulder and fringed silver epaulettes, denoting his rank, which is thought to be Captain. During this period, younger men of fashion began to wear their hair in short curls, often with long sideburns. In our portrait, rather than a wig, the sitter wears his own hair, long, powdered and, brushed back from the forehead and tied at the nape of the neck (clubbed) with a black ribbon, which became fashionable by c.1795. However, a hair powder tax in 1795 effectively ended the fashion for wigs and powder but older men, military officers, and those in conservative professions such...

Seller Details

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