

SA825999

A Lady as a Vestal Virgin
c.1745; Follower of Jean Raoux
(1677-1734), Antique oil on
canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA825999

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 102 cm (40.2")

Width = 84 cm (33.1")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

In Ancient Rome the Vestals were six priestesses who represented the daughters of the royal house. They were tasked to keep a sacred fire burning on the altar in the temple of Vesta, and were regarded as fundamental to the safety of Rome. The origins of the religion is believed to date to the 7th century BC. These Roman guardians were chosen for their youth and purity and the Vestals were used as models of female virtue in allegorising portraiture of the later West. The guise was particularly popular in the libertine environment of 18th century France – made popular by the discovery of a "House of the Vestals" in Pompeii. Portraits of women as Vestals seem intended as fantasies of virtue infused with ironic eroticism. Later vestals became an image of republican virtue. This work was painted circa 1745 and is particularly fine in its depiction of the silks and also its remarkable condition. Several artists, notably Jean Raoux (1677–1734) and Jean Marc Nattier (1685–1766), had depicted portrait sitters in the guise of a vestal virgin, including several of the royal princesses, who were unmarried, and others who sat when they were about to marry. Jean Raoux (1677-17...

Seller Details

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