43.649

ANDREW PLIMER (British, 1763–1837)

Portrait of a Woman

1790s

Watercolor on ivory; oval, 8.4 x 6.8 cm (3¼ x 2⅝ in.)

Signature: none

Setting: period gold frame with lock of brown hair over blue glass on reverse

The Edward B. Greene Collection, 1943.649

Provenance

1929
Christie's (London) sale, November.[1]

1930
Leo Schidlof (1886–1966, Paris).

1930
Purchased by Edward B. Greene (1878–1957, Cleveland) from Leo Schidlof for £65 ($325); gift to the Cleveland Museum of Art, December 29, 1943.

1943
The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Exhibitions

None.

1 No Christie's sale of this date referencing this miniature has been discovered.

Bibliography

Chong, Alan, ed. *European and American Painting in The Cleveland Museum of Art,* p. 301. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1993.

Milliken, William M., and Harry B. Wehle. *Portrait Miniatures: The Edward B. Greene Collection,* p. 29, no. 28, pl. XXI. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1951.

THIS SITTER HAS CURLY HAIR falling around her neck and into which are woven two pearl ornaments. She wears a plain, low-neck white dress. Usually made of lightweight cotton muslin and high-waisted, this type of dress became popular at the end of the eighteenth century and was intended to refer to classical antiquity. Similar garments are worn by many of the female sitters depicted by Andrew Plimer during this period. The background is a blue-gray sky with prominent gray crosshatching. This miniature is an accomplished example of Plimer's work, with the sitter's features soft but individualized and not given over to the doll-like caricature that appears in the artist's other portraits of this date. The work is unsigned, as was typical for Plimer at this time. The miniature remains in its original gold frame, which has a curl of dark brown hair over blue glass on the back. CORY KORKOW

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